



Win a Lotus Elise

Details on page 10

IN SECTION TWO



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE
The Spam relaunch

Howard fires prison chief over debacle

Labour in scapegoat charge

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

Derek Lewis, the head of the Prison Service, was sacked yesterday after the damning inquiry into the Parkhurst escape, amid claims that he was being "scapegoated" for the errors of the Home Secretary.

Michael Howard was facing resignation calls from both main opposition parties last night, as Mr Lewis went onto the offensive, accusing the Home Secretary of political interference and of blurring the lines of responsibility.

He took the rare step of publishing his letter after Mr Howard had told the House that Sir John "has not found that any policy decision of mine, directly or indirectly, caused the escape" from Parkhurst.

Mr Howard emphasised in the Commons that Sir John had said that "responsibilities ultimately reach Prisons Board level and that the criticism stops there."

He said later: "If these criticisms had been made of me, I would have gone but they were not... You have to look at what, and at whom, the criticisms were directed."

But Jack Straw, Labour's home affairs spokesman, said he could find not any references in the report which cleared Mr Howard from blame and added: "The Secretary of State and his fellow ministers have interfered daily in the running and operation of the Prison Service."

"Given the state of the Prison Service today, the way in which it has been run ragged by continual ministerial interference, the constant changes of policy, will you not now understand that if anyone is to go, it must be you?"

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrats' home affairs spokesman, said: "How is the sacking of Derek Lewis supposed to discharge all ministerial responsibility for the appalling state of affairs? Who was he reporting to, sometimes several times a day, but the Home Secretary?"

Mr Howard rejected "absolutely" allegations of ministerial interference. "It is



Defiant: Derek Lewis hit back swiftly after his dismissal

essential, if I am to be properly accountable to this House and this country, that I am properly informed about what happens in our prisons."

Last night the Home Office said Mr Lewis's severance package was being negotiated. But last April, the former television executive had already been put on probation by Mr Howard, following a wave of criticism engulfing the Prison Service.

There was not only the Whitmoor and Parkhurst debacles but the suicide in Winson Green of Fred West, accused of the Gloucestershire murders.

Learmont: The main points

- The highest risk prisons should be housed in a purpose-built high security jail.
- Parkhurst should be downgraded as soon as possible.
- Armed response units should be set up for prisons.
- The director-general of the Prison Service should have regular contact with those with operational responsibilities.
- Better training for all staff.
- The director-general must balance keeping ministers informed with the need to run the Prison Service.
- The Prison Service to take urgent action to cut down the mountain of paperwork.

Chapter of errors, page 3
Lewis letter, page 3
Another view, page 13
Leading article, page 18
Andrew Marr, page 19

accusations of murder against two prisoners on home leave and the embarrassment caused to the Home Secretary by the movement of IRA prisoners just after the ceasefire was announced.

Sir John Learmont's report said the Parkhurst breakout revealed "a chapter of errors at every level and a naivety that defies belief". The report into prison security in England and Wales found Parkhurst was "totally unsuitable" for housing some of the most difficult prisoners in the system. The report identified "lax and unprofessional procedures which made it relatively easy for the escapees to achieve their objective".

Sources suggested it was Mr Lewis's failure to act on a warning about Parkhurst from Judge Stephen Lumley, Chief Inspector of Prisons, that finally led to his dismissal.

Mr Lewis was told in April that his three-year contract - at £125,000 a year plus bonus, due to end in January 1996 - would not be renewed. He would then go on what has been described as a "one-more-escape-and-you're-out" monthly contract. In fact, the withering Learmont inquiry left no margin for further error.

The sacking of Mr Lewis introduces more instability into a service suffering from low morale, prison overcrowding and the difficulties of privatisation. The recent clampdown on home leave and the introduction of more austere regimes has led to increased tensions in overcrowded prisons. The Home Secretary's latest tough law-and-order prison package, which is expected to lead to an increase in the 52,000 prison population, will add to the problems.

The treatment of Mr Lewis, appointed in 1992 on a reforming agenda set by Lord Woolf, but who four months later found he was dealing with a different programme of locking up more, for longer, and in harsher conditions, means a successor may be hard to find. Richard Tilt, Director of Custody, has stepped into the breach on a temporary basis.

A million blacks take capital in their stride



Stepping out: Nation of Islam marchers making their way towards the Capitol in Washington yesterday

Photograph: Greg Gibson/AP

Rupert Cornwell witnesses a collective rite of revivalism in Washington's biggest black rally since Martin Luther King

In a huge collective rite of revivalism, hundreds of thousands of African-Americans yesterday assembled at the foot of the US Capitol to reassert their identity as blacks, and vow to overcome the crisis besetting black America, "Atonement" was the order of the day for the Million Man March organised by Louis Farrakhan, leader of the Nation of Islam.

But as a crisp and sunny autumn day progressed, any fears the rally would fall victim to his often bitter black separatism abated. The mood was relaxed, even joyful, the air cut with cries of "God Bless the black man", and the aromas of barbecued beef and fried chicken.

Beforehand the mood of the establishment, black and white alike, had been cautious, alarmed that the largest black rally here since Martin Luther King gave his "I have a dream" speech in August 1963, would turn into a vehicle for the anti-Semitic, white-baiting views of Mr Farrakhan.

Speaking in Texas, President Clinton warned how "One mil-

lion men do not make right one man's message of malice and division" - an unmistakable allusion to Mr Farrakhan.

Earlier General Colin Powell, who along with several moderate black church, civil rights and political figures, had shunned the rally, said he wished "Someone else had had the idea of the March". Defending his absence, the possible presidential candidate said his presence on the speaker's podium would have given the Nation of Islam leader "more credibility than I would like".

More pertinently, Stevie Wonder, the singer, told the crowd stretching away towards the Washington monument, that "this is bigger than one man". Marion Barry, the once disgraced Mayor of Washington, provided a personal cameo of the redemption theme. "Look at me, I have never been stronger and wiser," Mr Barry, who went to prison for drug use

before returning to win back his old job, declared. "If the Lord can do it for me, he can do it for you."

"The powers have not treated us well," declared the Rev Robert Smith as he gave the morning sermon, and a few placards attacked the police, savaged in the recent OJ Simpson trial: "Chicago police, Natural Born Killers," proclaimed a slogan. Elsewhere a gigantic portrait of OJ Simpson, floated over the crowd. But the atmosphere was festive and utterly unthreatening. The few whites who were in attendance felt entirely at ease.

Whether the March attained its statistical goal would only become clear later in the day. But by 10am Ben Chavis, the former head of the NAACP civil rights group, was claiming that a million people had already arrived and much of Washington - official and otherwise - had effectively shut down, leaving the

streets elsewhere in the city eerily empty. The Million Man March drew more than a sprinkling of black women to the Capitol grounds and the National Mall. Cora Masters Barry, wife of Marion Barry, declared from the podium: "This is the prettiest sight I've ever seen in my entire life."

"I pray my multiracial and international friends will view this gathering as an opportunity for all men, but particularly men of African-American her-

itage, to make changes in their lives for the better," said Rosa Parks, who became known as the "mother of the civil rights movement" after her refusal in 1955 to give up her seat in Montgomery, Alabama, became a cause celebre.

The ultimate hope, however, was reconciliation, a theme repeated time and again by President Clinton. Rejecting Mr Farrakhan's separatism, he urged the country to heal "the rift we see before us that is tearing at the heart of America" and unite the black and white worlds "at last into one America".

Atonement and gaiety, pages 10, 11

Lottery money counted as public purse

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES
Political Correspondent

Lottery funds are being counted as public spending, the Treasury admitted yesterday, in apparent contradiction of last week's pledge by William Waldegrave, the Chief Secretary.

The admission came after a confidential letter revealed that the Welsh Office was treating lottery money as public sector funding and will fuel growing suspicions that lottery cash will

be increasingly used to help contain spending at a time when the Government wants to cut taxes.

A Treasury spokesman said yesterday: "Lottery funding counts as public spending and always has done. Lottery funds are not designed to replace existing funds. But when it comes to the stage of dispersal of lottery funds, they count as public spending."

Mr Waldegrave's undertaking last week came after the leak of a letter from Virginia Bottom-

ley, Secretary of State for National Heritage, urging him not to cut her budget in the light of lottery awards.

Mr Waldegrave made no pledge to protect Mrs Bottomley's departmental budget - but he promised that the so-called "additionality" principle would remain. The Government has repeatedly promised that lottery cash will not be used to fund its existing programmes.

But a letter from Jeff Pride, development director of the Welsh Tourist Board, to the Bre-

con Jazz Festival, withdraws a previous verbal offer of funding for an information centre, saying: "We are forced to take this course of action because we have been recently advised by the Welsh Office that lottery funding should be considered as public sector funding."

"Under our ministerial arrangements we are required to restrict total public sector funding to 50 per cent of project cost. This means that because lottery funding is deemed to be public sector funding we

have to enforce this 50 per cent rule in relation to your application."

Alex Cardle, the Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, mid-Wales, said the Welsh Office meant that lottery money could not be used as "match" funding for projects. "The result of this is that lottery money is being treated no differently from income tax or VAT by the Treasury."

He added: "Following last week's tiff between Virginia Bottomley and William Walde-

grave, it's clear that the Government has been misleading members of the public who buy lottery tickets into thinking that they were making voluntary and additional contributions to charities, sport and the arts."

The Welsh Office effectively conceded there was a contradiction of Mr Waldegrave's saying: "We are looking at the rules to see if there are ways of relaxing them as they apply to the Wales Tourist Board and lottery funding."

Grants defended, page 5

IN BRIEF

Maxwell 'bullied son'
Kevin Maxwell took to the witness stand for the first time yesterday to defend himself against charges of misusing pension funds, and described his father the late Robert Maxwell as a "bully" who used "verbal brutality". Page 4

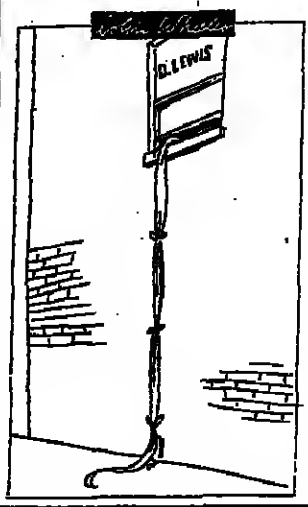
West's 'two faces'
The victim of an alleged sex attack by Rosemary West told Winchester Crown Court that she "was like Jekyll and Hyde, one moment she had an aggressive voice and then the next she was being all motherly again". Page 2

Bank braced for criticism
The Bank of England was bracing itself last night for a barrage of criticism from Singapore, which today publishes its version of the collapse last February of Barings, the merchant bank. The build-up to the long-awaited report has seen increased diplomatic tensions between the Singapore and British financial authorities. Page 20



Graf's double trouble
Steffi Graf, on the eve of the Brighton International women's tournament, described her misery in coping with a chronic back injury and the strain of a German tax investigation. Page 28

Eubank to retire
Chris Eubank, the 29-year-old former World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, is to retire after losing his title to Steve Collins. Page 28



COMMENT

News analysis: The battle for the future of our countryside comes to Parliament. Page 17

Defia Smith: What is the secret ingredient of her phenomenal popularity? Page 19

David Lister reveals what John Lennon really thought of those recycled out-takes that are masquerading as new Beatles' hits. Page 17

Miles Kingston's view on proverbs and those other guides to life. Page 19

Leading article: "After Saddam's 'victory', now is not the time to lift sanctions on Iraq." Page 18

Weather: The South-west and northern areas of the UK will become drier and brighter after early drizzle. Elsewhere it will be sunny to start but may rain later. Section Two, page 21

section ONE

BUSINESS 20-24 COMMENT 18, 19 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16
LIFE 4, 5 LISTINGS 20, 21 MEDIA 18, 19 REVIEWS 11
OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 23 SPORT 25-28 UNIT TRUSTS 24

section TWO

ARTS 6-10 CHESS 22 CROSSWORD 22 FASHION 12, 13
SCIENCE 14, 15 TELEVISION & RADIO 23, 24 WEATHER 21

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services Ltd is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and IFMD. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up. You may not get back all the money you invest. Virgin Direct does not offer investment advice nor make any recommendations about investments. We only market our own products. For your security, all telephone calls to Virgin Direct will be recorded.

Rosemary West trial: Defendant 'was like Jekyll and Hyde' as Miss A tells of assault of girls at Cromwell Street

Teenage girls 'were tied up and raped'

WILL BENNETT

A harrowing account of a sex attack on two girls allegedly carried out by Rosemary West and Frederick West at 25 Cromwell Street was given to Winchester Crown Court yesterday.

A woman identified only as Miss A wept as she told the court that she and another girl had been raped by Mr West and sexually assaulted by Mrs West after having their wrists and ankles bound with tape.

She said that during the attack Mrs West "was like Jekyll and Hyde. One moment she had an aggressive voice and then the next she was being all motherly again".

Miss A denied a suggestion from Richard Ferguson, QC, defending Mrs West, that her account of the incident was a fantasy that she had invented. "I wish I had," she replied.

But she admitted that she had a history of psychiatric problems and that she had had hallucinations about Mr West.

Mrs West, 41, denies murdering 10 girls and young women whose remains were found at their house in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and at their previous home in

the city. Mr West, who was charged with 12 murders, was found dead in his prison cell on 1 January this year.

The prosecution has alleged that seven of the victims were gagged with tape, tied up and kept alive while they were sexually abused. They were mutilated and dismembered before being buried, five of them in the cellar at Cromwell Street.

Miss A, 33, said that she was taken into care at the age of 13 and went for assessment at Russett House, Gloucester. While there, she became friendly with a girl who took her round to 25 Cromwell Street.

Mrs West was happy to talk to Miss A about the problems she was experiencing in care and the two formed a bond. Miss A said yesterday: "She was very nice. She was like a big sister-cum-young mum. Miss A was then transferred to Jordansbrook children's home in Gloucester but continued to visit Cromwell Street, going there eight or nine times.

On one visit, Mrs West answered the door dressed only in bra and pants. On another occasion, Mrs West made a sexual approach. Miss A said: "She came quite close and started



An artist's impression of Miss A telling the court of Mrs West's sexual mood swings. Illustration: Judith McCavanagh

kissing my neck and touching my breasts on the outside of my clothes."

Miss A told the court that in the summer of 1977, when she was 15, Mrs West answered the door wearing a see-through blouse with nothing underneath. They went upstairs and Mrs West led Miss A to a bedroom where Mr West was waiting with two young girls who were both naked. One was aged about 13 or 14 and the other, who had a tattoo on her arm, was 15 or 16.

Mrs West started undressing

Miss A and then got undressed herself. She went over to the younger girl and started caressing her. Miss A said the girl "looked very distressed and frightened".

Miss A said that Mrs West then produced some brown parcel-type tape and Mr West taped the younger girl's hands and wrists together in front of her and bound her ankles so that her legs were apart.

The girl was then subjected to a sexual assault and Mr West had sexual intercourse with her. Throughout the attack the

West was making sexual remarks and saying things such as "enjoy" and "it's good".

After they had finished with the girl, Mrs West pulled off the tape off harshly and was "like Jekyll and Hyde" alternating between aggression and gentleness. Miss A told the court. She went on: "During the sexual bits it was not a soft sexual voice like in passion. It was like 'This is what we're going to do. This is how it's going to be.' Afterwards she was telling her 'It's OK' in a very soft, gentle voice."

As the first girl sat and wept, Miss A said she realised "God, I'm next." She added: "I wanted to scream, I wanted to kick. I wanted to cry and I just felt numb," but she did nothing because she was frightened.

She said that Mrs West then tied her hands behind her back and bound her ankles with tape. Miss A was then subjected to several sexual assaults with a vibrator and what she believed to be a candle, which caused her pain. Mr West had intercourse with her.

Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, asked: "Was anything said?" Miss A replied: "Just enjoy, relax, and these sort of things all the time. Rose said

to Fred 'are you enjoying this?' Mrs West then pulled the tape off her rather brutally and Miss A said: "I felt horrible, dirty, and I ran to the bathroom and washed. I just wanted to scrub away."

After leaving the house, she said she did not know what to do. "I couldn't go to the police because there was a stigma because if you were in care you were bad. I couldn't go to my mum. I couldn't go to my dad. There was nobody." Later she stole a can of petrol from the children's home and planned to throw it through the letter-box of 25 Cromwell Street and set fire to it. But she lost her nerve.

Miss A told the court that she had asked a friend of hers to contact a newspaper after the Cromwell Street murder inquiry began last year and that she had signed a £30,000 contract for her story.

Cross-examined by Mr Ferguson, Miss A admitted that there had been inconsistencies in her evidence. When police first approached her last year she denied going to Cromwell Street and in her original statement she told of the attack on the other girl but not the assault on herself. She agreed that

there were differences in what she had said in statements and what she had told the court about the way her hands were tied and at what point in the attack she had gone to the toilet.

Miss A said that in 1977 she had run away to live with Graham Lettis, Mrs West's brother, in Cheltenham, and that she had had a "crush on him". She said that when she went to Cromwell Street she did not know that he was Mrs West's brother.

Later, when she discovered that he had begun a relationship with someone else, she sent him a photograph of a baby and told him that it was his, which was untrue.

Miss A agreed that she had a history of psychiatric problems, had undergone electroconvulsive therapy and had twice attempted suicide.

Since 1992, she had complained about "a man in black" who followed her around. She said the man was Mr West.

She denied claims by Mr Ferguson that she had made up the story of the sex attack at Cromwell Street. As she finished her evidence, she sobbed: "I know what happened. It is not a fantasy."

The trial continues today.

IN BRIEF

Clinton aide targets Ulster deadlock

Tony Lake, President Clinton's National Security Adviser, met officials at Downing Street yesterday as part of efforts to revive the Northern Ireland peace process with a plan for an international commission for decommissioning IRA and loyalist paramilitary weapons.

There are hopes the proposal will be agreed before Mr Clinton's visit to Britain at the end of next month.

Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, and Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will meet in Belfast today to discuss security and political plans for moving the peace process forward.

Crash charges

The articulated lorry driver involved in a head-on crash with a car which killed five young British medics working in southern Africa is in face charges of "culpable homicide", Swaziland police said. Inquiries into the accident near Lavumisa are continuing but the driver, from Durban, South Africa, is to be remanded for trial.

Oil spill toll

A factory that spilled 2 tons of heavy fuel oil into the Mersey polluting a five-mile stretch of the river estuary could face prosecution by the National Rivers Authority. More than 100 birds were affected by the spillage from a soap and washing powder works in Warrington, Cheshire.

Brain injury award

A seven-year-old girl stuck with the mental age of a six-month-old after suffering brain damage at birth was awarded £785,000 agreed damages at the High Court in London. Lucy Piper was asphyxiated when her mother went into labour at Farnborough hospital, Orpington, Kent.

Footballer fined

Footballer Steve Kirk, 32, a defender with Scottish premier division team Falkirk, was fined £250 after being found guilty of injuring a 12-year-old girl when he recklessly kicked the ball into the crowd when another player was injured during a game against Hearts in April.

Author dies

William Murray, the creator of the Peter and Jane reading books for young children, has died aged 83. More than 80 million copies of the 37 Ladybird keyword reading scheme books he helped devise over 30 years ago have been sold.

£1.6m drug haul

Cannabis resin with a street value of £1.6m was seized at Heathrow in the largest seizure of the drug at London airports this year. A detector dog found the 500kg of the drug in a consignment of machine parts from Holland.

Wheelchair attack

Police were hunting four youths who knocked a disabled grandmother out of her wheelchair after demanding cash and kicked her unconscious. Jeanne Aird, 52, of Havant, Hampshire, suffered a broken cheekbone.

Irish brain drain

The number of students from the Irish Republic entering United Kingdom universities this year has soared to a new high, figures showed. Numbers last year leapt by 50 per cent to 4,500, prompting fears in Dublin a teenage brain drain.

Child abducted

Police were questioning a 20-year-old man after a nine-year-old girl was abducted and sexually assaulted in Derby.

Criminal logic

A questionnaire of 130 criminals found that town centre security cameras would not only have deterred them from offending but also prevented them from becoming victims of crime, the police newspaper *The Law* said.

Plastic improvement

North Yorkshire County Council is replacing its aluminium road signs with plastic ones to foil thieves stealing them to melt down for cash. More than 300 signs have been stolen since February at a cost of £20,000.

Government firm 'broke Iran embargo'

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Westminster Correspondent

The British government was accused yesterday of knowingly breaking a United Nations arms embargo and its own guidelines preventing the supply of arms to Iran during the Iran-Iraq war.

The potentially explosive allegation was made by Stephen Byers, MP for Walsend and a Labour whip, in a letter to Valerie Strachan, head of Customs and Excise. Mr Byers claimed he had evidence detailing five shipments made by Royal Ordnance, then a state-owned ammunition manufacturer, to Iran in 1985 and 1986.

If proven, Mr Byers's claims would cause maximum damage to the Government as it awaits publication of the Scott inquiry report into arms exports to Iraq. The Royal Ordnance allegations could hang into question the role of Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who was, for part of the period, Secretary of State for Defence, in ultimate control of Royal Ordnance. This could be the first time Mr Heseltine's name has been dragged into the embargo-breaking scandals culminating in the Scott inquiry. Unlike several of his Cabinet colleagues, Mr Heseltine is expected to emerge with clean hands from the Scott report.

Mr Byers requested that Customs extend its current investigation into possible breaches of arms controls by BMRAC, the defence supplier which once counted Jonathan Aitken, former defence minister, among its directors, to cover Royal Ordnance. It was Mr Heseltine

who instigated that inquiry. BMRAC sent naval guns to Iran via Singapore, in contravention of the UN blockade and government export guidelines. Mr Byers, however, claims to have obtained evidence of direct shipments to Iran, and, most embarrassingly of all, says they were made by a government-owned company.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Royal Ordnance and the Government makes it clear who was in charge: the company had to submit an annual business plan to the Secretary of State for Defence and could not enter into exclusive trading agreements without his approval.

Thirty-five pages of documents, including ships' manifests, sent to Customs, apparently map out five shipments from Royal Ordnance:

- From a Kent port in September 1985. On board were 11 containers of propellant powder and one of tetryl. The ship went to Zeebrugge, then to Rijeka in Yugoslavia and on to Bandar Abbas in Iran where the cargo was unloaded on 26 October 1985.
- From a Kent port to Iran with three containers of tetryl, in November 1985.
- 54 cases of tetryl to Iran in April 1986.
- 104 cases of Royal Ordnance-manufactured tetryl to Bandar Abbas in June 1986.
- 2,600 boxes of explosive powder to Bandar Abbas in July 1986.

Mr Byers obtained his papers from sources in the United States and Scandinavia. They refer to Royal Ordnance's participation in a tight-knit group of European explosives manufacturers. Another British ammunition-maker is ICI. It is understood ICI management ordered the company to take no part in the trade with Iran.

The consignments were organised by Scandinavian Commodities, according to Mr Byers's documents, with the shipping arranged by Transamun in Antwerp in Belgium. In some cases, claims Mr Byers, the Royal Bank of Scotland is shown as acting as banker.

A Customs spokeswoman said they had yet to receive Mr Byers' letter and it was too early to comment.



Aitken: Investigated

British blacks stage unity rally at Broadwater Farm

PETER VICTOR

As a million black men marched in the United States capital yesterday, hundreds of British black men and women were arriving at the community centre in Broadwater Farm estate in Tottenham, north London.

News of the national black unity rally in Britain, called in sympathy with the Million Man March in Washington DC, set nerves twitching among residents on the estate, the police and local politicians. All were united in their desire to say as little as possible in advance of the meeting. So was the local MP, Bernie Grant, who was due to address last night's meeting.

A Scotland Yard spokesman stressed that the gathering was "a private meeting not an open air rally" and said policing around the estate would continue in "the normal fashion".

Haringey council said none of its members would be attending "except in a private capacity", while the Broadwater Farm residents' association said: "This meeting is absolutely nothing to do with us, nothing at all."

Only the Jewish Board of Deputies, concerned about overtly anti-Semitic comments by Louis Farrakhan, the Nation of Islam's American leader, was willing to openly condemn the meeting, describing it as a "cynical" stunt. The concern centred around the keynote speaker, Minister Wayne X, a prominent member of the black separatist Nation of Islam. The Fruit of Islam, as the group's followers are known, see the estate as a ripe picking ground.

The death of Cynthia Jarrett, a Broadwater Farm resident, during a police raid 10 years ago sparked off the worst race riots Britain has seen. Constable Keith Blacklock was hacked to death and the estate has never lived down its reputation. Perhaps as a direct result it is an ideal recruiting ground for Farrakhan's self-empowerment, self-help message. Unemployment among young black men on the estate is also disproportionately high.

Although millions of pounds have been spent improving Broadwater Farm, including hundreds of thousands of pounds to build the community centre, the venue for last night's meeting, the young black men who hang around the shops on the estate feel little has been done for them.

Cricketer wins damages for loyalty jibe



Devon Malcolm: Committed

The England cricketer Devon Malcolm yesterday accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages over a magazine article which questioned his commitment to the team.

The Jamaican-born Derbyshire fast bowler, who leaves for the winter tour of South Africa tomorrow, attended the High Court to hear his solicitor, Nayesh Desai, tell the judge, Mr Justice Morland, of the great offence caused by the item in the July issue of *Wisden Cricket Monthly*.

Headed "Is it in the blood?", the article suggested that England players of overseas origin would lack real commitment to the England team and would be

motivated solely by a desire for personal advancement and achievement.

It named Mr Malcolm, who has 32 caps and has taken more than 100 Test wickets, in such a way as to question his suitability to be selected for England, his patriotism and his loyalty.

Mr Malcolm found the allegations, which were entirely untrue, racist and highly offensive, Mr Desai said.

He had always been a fully committed England player and supporter and took pride in playing for his country.

Rupert Elliott, for the defence, said the publishers *Wisden Cricket Magazines Ltd* and

the magazine's editor dissociated themselves from the allegations, which were made by an independent contributor.

The article was published in the belief that it was a contribution to a legitimate debate but it was now accepted it should not have appeared.

They had already published an apology and were happy to repeat it in public. They had agreed to pay Mr Malcolm damages and his legal cost.

Mr Malcolm, of Oakwood, Derby, left court smiling after the judge added his best wishes for the tour.

"I hope Mr Malcolm can repeat his triumph at The Oval," Mr Justice Morland comment-

ed, referring to the bowler's haul in 1994 of nine South African wickets for 57 runs.

Afterwards, Mr Malcolm said he intended to pay a share of the damages to the Derbyshire Children's Hospital and the Devon Malcolm Cricket Centre for young people in Sheffield.

"I am delighted that my commitment to the England team has been recognised. I hope no one will ever again question the dedication and loyalty of sportsmen and women because of their place of birth or ethnic origin," he said.

"It is important to me to promote multi-racial sport. I am looking forward now to playing for England in South Africa."

OUR
AIR CON
IS
NO CON.



IN THE ESPACE RT ALIZE IT'S STANDARD,
SO YOU DON'T PAY ANY EXTRA.
THE ESPACE RT ALIZE FROM JUST £18,380*
DRIVE AN ORIGINAL DRIVE AN ESPACE.
TELEPHONE 0800 52 51 50.



*Excludes Renault buy-in-hand charge of £294.75 which covers delivery to the dealer, number plates and factory warranty etc. The Government road tax bonus and other grants to service support by agreement between the customer and the dealer are not included. Prices correct at time of going to press. This advertisement is based on details of the vehicle imported from the UK. Renault is a registered trademark of Renault. Renault is not responsible for any errors or omissions.

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD	
Australia	£5.00
Belgium	£5.00
Canada	£5.00
Cyprus	£5.00
Denmark	£5.00
Finland	£5.00
France	£5.00
Germany	£5.00
Greece	£5.00
Ireland	£5.00
Italy	£5.00
Japan	£5.00
Netherlands	£5.00
Norway	£5.00
Portugal	£5.00
Spain	£5.00
Sweden	£5.00
Switzerland	£5.00
Taiwan	£5.00
USA	£5.00

Back issues of the Independent are available from: Historic Newspapers, telephone 0385 402455.

'Chapter of errors' led to Parkhurst escape

STEPHEN WARD

In the dark of a January evening, a dog handler at Parkhurst noticed a hole cut in the wire perimeter fence. It took 30 minutes for staff to discover who was missing, and by that time three prisoners had been on the run with money and weapons for two and a half hours.

The Learmont inquiry into the episode tells the story of disaster at every stage, "a chapter of errors at every level and a naivety which defies belief". The break-out was not based on any "clever or ingenious" plan, but simply on the ability of the

prisoners to follow a well-trodden path through loose and ineffective security.

The escape was the culmination of long and detailed preparations which rivalled those of the British prisoners of war in Colditz. The three men had made tools, a steel ladder and a gun, and had acquired blank ammunition. They had also made a key - which they tested beforehand - to open all the doors and gates, and some of the ways they managed to accumulate more than £200.

On the evening of the escape the three men had stayed on in the sports hall after exercise. No one noticed that the party of ten

had shrunk to seven back on the wing. The men walked 200 yards without being noticed, using their key to open doors, including the training workshop where they picked up the tools they had prepared beforehand.

They then cut their way through a mesh fence, where they were missed by closed-circuit television cameras, before scaling the perimeter wall using the ladder, still unseen by the cameras and unnoticed by prison officers.

The staff who were supposed to be keeping an eye on the television screens were untrained and distracted by other duties. Despite almost 20 years of cor-

respondence and complaints, alarms had never been installed by the Prison Service on the perimeter fence. Some areas were not covered by the closed circuit cameras. The report says this neglect of technology was "quite extraordinary".

The escaping men were in their own clothes, with a good head start. They walked to Newport and took a taxi nine miles to Sandown. They then spent four days trying to steal an aircraft, and several boats, undetected by the massive search now underway. Finally, they were caught after being spotted by chance by an off-duty prison officer.

The inquiry revealed that one of the escaped prisoners was a qualified sheet-metal worker who had been left unsupervised, to make the ladder out of some unwanted materials. Another made the key, probably copying from memory a prison officer's key. He also made a tool which would help steal cars and aircraft. And, somehow, they made a gun.

The cash and ammunition probably came in via visitors. There was no closed-circuit television in the visiting area, and the report says: "It was known by officers that, in the confusion and noise, illicit items were regularly passed to the inmates." Staff themselves may have brought illegal items in - they were seldom checked.

Some of the weaknesses are blamed on the continual and disruptive building work at the Victorian jail, which had begun in 1988 and should have finished in 1993, but will now go on into the next century. Staff, including the Governor, resisted temporary closure in order to protect their jobs.

"A phoney stability was achieved at Parkhurst... by surrendering to the prisoners of control over their daily existence," says the report. The prison was effectively run by the prisoners; there was no real tim-

it to private cash holdings, and bullying and intimidation were rife, so money accumulated with the more powerful inmates. When 20 high-risk prisoners were transferred from the prison after the escape, the total private cash balance held on behalf of inmates fell by almost £15,000. Phonecards were used as currency for drugs and gambling. The Governor spent only two or three hours a week talking to staff and inmates, and 50 on paperwork.

If the prison was incompetent in keeping prisoners in, it was even worse at catching them once they were out. The report describes the hunt as "chaos".

No one knew who should be called in to help, many radios and torches had flat batteries, and maps were illegible photocopies. The report concludes: "The break-out could have been launched at any time with the same chances of success. There is little to commend in the way things were done despite the conscientiousness of many individuals."

"The hopelessness of the situation is perhaps best illustrated by the comments of many honest prison officers who during interviews made the plea: 'Please come back and check that your recommendations have been implemented.'"

Prison chief sad not to complete his term

Jojo Moyes looks at the brief and difficult tenure of a 'career manager'

Few were surprised when it emerged earlier this year that Derek Lewis had not been the first choice to head the Prison Service.

A career manager, whose previous charges had included motorway services, television rental and Granada Television, he had no prison or public work experience when he was appointed in 1993. More importantly, he had no experience of dealing with ministers.

Mr Lewis's tenure did not take place in the easiest of times and many feel he has been an "unlucky" Director General. In his two years in the service the prison population has jumped from 40,000 to 51,000, and four months after his appointment he inherited Michael Howard as Home Secretary, a man with a very different view of the prison regime.

Detractors admit that he has improved many parts of the prison service. But Mr Lewis, who was paid an unprecedented £125,000 a year, was also unpopular for following ministers' advice against research, and for implementing privatisation reforms and market testing, which demoralised staff and overwhelmed governors with administration.

He also presided over some of the worst lapses in security, and it was the future surrounding these that led to his dismissal yesterday.

Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire has been one of Mr Lewis's greatest bugbears. Five IRA terrorists tried to shoot their way out of the prison last year and Semtex explosive was later discovered inside.

Mr Lewis was also criticised over the transfer of IRA prisoners; Brighton bomber Patrick Magee was sent back to Ulster on the day the Northern Ireland ceasefire started. The escapes from privatised security firms, the Everthorpe riots, the suicide of alleged multiple killer Fred West while on remand, and the murder of a Woolworth's shop assistant by murderer Ian Kay while on prison leave compounded the pressure.

But it was the escape of three dangerous prisoners from Parkhurst in January this year that ultimately made Mr Lewis's position untenable, especially once a leaked copy of Sir John Learmont's report singled him out for criticism. The report said the policy of



Final departure: Derek Lewis leaving his office yesterday

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

appointing business executives and civil servants without operational experience to run the prison service had been "a disaster". Mr Lewis, renowned for his planning and cost-evaluation skills, was reported to have been appointed over more obvious candidates because of his fervent backing of prison privatisation.

By early this year, however, there were reports that he was poised to quit; that he had told close colleagues he wanted out

of the hot seat and a return to industry. Meanwhile, relations between Mr Lewis and Michael Howard are said to have become increasingly strained, largely due to what is seen as the Home Secretary's "interference" in the work of the Prison Service.

Michael Howard yesterday told the Commons that it was "with some sadness" that he had concluded a change of leadership was necessary. But Mr Lewis is said to be angry at

having been used as a political shield by the Home Secretary. Mr Lewis has been described as Mr Howard's "whipping boy" and has said he is deeply disappointed "not to finish the job off".

In his letter in response to the "sacking" he told the Home Secretary: "It is a great disappointment to me that in the 13 months since the Whitemoor escape you have required so much paper but have paid so little attention to prisons."

Alcatraz-style jail planned

HEATHER MILLS
Home Affairs Correspondent

A super-secure Alcatraz-style prison for high risk, sophisticated prisoners, another to take psychotic and volatile inmates, and the setting up of armed response units are central to Sir John Learmont's blueprint for the future.

His withering 180-page report contains 127 recommendations for root and branch reform, designed to end what he described as "a chapter of errors at every level and a naivety that defies belief".

As well as improving the physical security of the country's jails, the report recommends restructuring and streamlining management, a total reappraisal of the risks posed by all inmates and major changes in their treatment. "This inquiry has found a great deal that needs to be put right within the prison service, spanning leadership, structure, the management chain and the ethos of the

Service," Sir John concludes. In what will be a controversial recommendation to a Home Secretary who does not want to appear soft on prisoners, he also recommends to use of in-cell television as a means of control. He suggests that its provision and the hours it can be used could be used as an incentive for good behaviour. "The fact that so many other countries have gone down this road is proof positive of its advantages," he identifies as a priority the need to end the drug culture in jails and suggests removing prisoners' rights to private cash, which has allowed some to have access to thousands of pounds. All cash should be earned and jails should increase the amount of work available to inmates.

Sir John suggests mandatory "closed" visits, where visitors and prisoners are divided by glass screens, for all exceptional risk inmates, like IRA prisoners. He also says that Judge Stephen Tuzum, the indepen-

dent Chief Inspector of Prisons - who had warned about lax security at Parkhurst before the escape - should have an enhanced role with an increased staff.

The cost is estimated at over £134.5m in the first four years - the bulk of which is for the two new super-secure prisons.

Denying that he had imported the idea from the United States, Sir John said a well-respected architect had been brought in to design a British jail for the 21st century. It would have two control towers, and although he makes no recommendation for on-site firearms, he does suggest the setting up of armed response units. Visitors would have to pass through a tunnel into a prison divided into separate, self-contained units, with all recreational areas covered by anti-helicopter wire. Would-be escapees would have to negotiate three walls and a fence, dogs, cameras and alarms.

The idea for an Alcatraz-type jail was first put forward 30 years

ago by Earl Mountbatten, after his inquiry into the escape of the spy George Blake.

But his idea of holding all the most dangerous criminals under one roof was rejected in favour of the current "dispersal" system - which spreads all high risk prisoners among six top security jails: Parkhurst, Whitemoor, Full Sutton, Long Lartin, Frankland and Belmarsh.

Sir John has reversed the 30-year penal policy after a series of security embarrassments, including those at Parkhurst and Whitemoor, which showed that the dispersal system was far from foolproof. The humiliations began with the spectacular helicopter escape in 1987 from Gartree prison by Andrew Russell. He was also among those who escaped from Whitemoor in September last year.

But there remains deep concern about the new plans, not least from governors who claim it makes impossible the breaking up of gangs bent on escape, violence or intimidation.

'Your objectives were achieved'

This is an edited version of the letter from Derek Lewis to Home Secretary, Michael Howard

Derek Lewis: The case for and against

FOR AGAINST

Experience
From the moment he took over the service in April 1993, he was a very visible leader, prepared to take the blame and defend his reputation.

Leadership Qualities
Adaptable. He took over a service preparing to implement the secure but "loose" recommendations of the Woolf inquiry into the Strangeways riots, but four months later inherited Michael Howard as Home Secretary with a very different blueprint for "tougher" prisons.

Security
He reduced prison escapes dramatically. For the six months ending last August, escapes were down to 57 - a 60 per cent reduction on last year and 71 per cent down over the last three years.

Reforms
He tackled the bureaucracy, sweeping away the red tape and streamlining the prison service. He is reported to be involved in dealing with training and career development. Regimes for prisoners were only slightly improved.

The Drug Problem
He recognised drug and drink problems throughout the system and introduced the first co-ordinated strategy to deal with them.

Police failed to have much impact and a big question mark hangs over any component - mandatory drug testing.

be a matter requiring many years' work - no less than five... Any assessment of our performance over the last two years must also take into account the fact that the service achieved all of the objectives that you personally set for us last

year and all but one of the objectives set by your predecessor in the first year. ... None of that under-estimates the extreme seriousness of the escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst jails, but there is a need for performance to be

considered "in the round" ... It is significant that so many of the Learmont recommendations represent action that has already been taken, was already planned or was proposed to the Inquiry by the Prison Service.

I have considered your suggestion in the context of this and against the background of the unanimous confidence expressed in my leadership by the whole board ... I was, therefore, unable to accept your proposal that I should resign.

Events over the last 12 months have highlighted the way in which the split between your responsibility for policy and mine for operations has become thoroughly confused ...

The Learmont report also rightly points to this very high level of ministerial involvement in operational matters. The reports comments on "the personal pressures which the competing demands of the politicians, the media and successive operational incidents must have inflicted on [me]".

It is a great disappointment to me that in the 13 months since the Whitemoor escape, you have required so much paper but have paid so little attention to prisons themselves with only some six visits - fewer than in the preceding 13 months.

What the service most needs at this juncture is continuity, consistency and genuine ministerial support. It is a matter of great regret that you have not chosen to give it that support ...

Yours sincerely
Derek Lewis

"My earliest Memory is **MuM** and **DaD** talking **BUSINESS** around the **BREAKFAST** table..."

Jane Ashley of Laura Ashley

"At LAURA ASHLEY and other memorable places."

"That'll do Nicely."

Call 0800 700 444 to apply for the American Express Card.

news

Tycoon 'constantly tried to stretch the law'



On the defence: Kevin Maxwell arriving at the Old Bailey yesterday where he took to the witness stand for the first time. Photograph: Edward Webb

JOHN WILLCOCK
Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell took to the witness stand for the first time yesterday to defend himself against charges of misusing pension funds, and described his father, Robert Maxwell, as a "bully" who used "verbal brutality".

After 19 weeks hearing the prosecution case, an Old Bailey jury heard Kevin Maxwell's counsel, Alan Jones QC, outline how he would defend himself. Kevin's brother Ian, who also faces charges of conspiracy to defraud the Maxwell pension funds, listened as Kevin described their father: "I was in awe of him as a child, I was very frightened."

He said his father "was somebody who dominated any business that he was involved in and that domination was partly physical. He was a big man, he had enormous charisma and a commanding presence in a room. Given his weight and bulk he could dominate and did dominate every meeting that he attended."

While Robert Maxwell did not consider himself above the law, the tycoon constantly attempted to "stretch the law as far as it would go".

Kevin and Ian Maxwell, together with Larry Trachtenberg, a former Maxwell finan-

The Maxwell Trial



Day 78

cial adviser, deny conspiracy to defraud the trustees and beneficiaries of the pension funds by misusing £22m shares in an Israeli company Teva, by pledging them as security for a loan in a vain attempt to prop up the ailing Maxwell empire after Robert Maxwell's death in November 1991. Kevin Maxwell alone denies a similar charge of conspiring with his father to misuse £100m shares in the Israeli company Scitex to pay private Maxwell company debts.

Mr Jones told the jury that the defence would argue that Kevin believed both sets of shares had been legally transferred from the pension funds to the private side of the business empire, Robert Maxwell Group (RMG), before being used for these subsequent deals.

When Mr Jones asked Kevin who he believed the Scitex shares belonged to in July and August of 1991, just months before his father's death, he replied: "I believed they had been transferred to the ownership of RMG. I was told that by my father. I saw an amended version of a contract and I believed those shares to have been transferred."

As for the ownership of the shares in Teva, he said: "Again I believed the ownership of Teva shares had been transferred from Bishopsgate [which administered the pension funds] to RMG. Again I was told by my father that ownership had been transferred."

Mr Jones also revealed that the defence would be calling evidence "as to how Robert Maxwell met his death". He told the jury that after his father's death, Kevin believed the banks would continue to support him and that an injection of £400m into the group would be forthcoming from an investor.

Kevin's case was that he had believed that while the Maxwell empire was suffering "liquidity

problems" throughout 1991 it was still "saveable" because it had a number of very valuable businesses and would enjoy the continued support of its banks. The defence argues that it was the banks that caused the eventual collapse of the group by withdrawing support.

Mr Jones said he was reluctant, because of the widespread press interest, to identify at this stage the witnesses who would be called, but they included Kevin's wife Pandora.

Kevin said his father was "somebody who inspired great loyalty and he was a real leader in that sense, a charismatic leader. He wasn't motivated by money, he was motivated by power, the ability to influence events, the ability to make a difference, to change things, not only in this country but abroad."

He would bully his subordinates, he said. "The domination was in part physical, part charismatic, and also he dominated by virtue of his success. The more successful he got the more people were willing to accept his judgment. He was capable of being extremely charming to people, he was capable of being winning but he was also capable of verbal brutality in meetings, public dressing-downs not only of his children but also his senior managers."

Kevin described how his father would hold daily meetings with senior managers at Mirror Group Newspapers. "If any of those managers had the misfortune to be reporting an event that displeased him, the guy would have a strip torn off him and the humiliation would be in public in front of his peers."

People were willing to work for Robert Maxwell despite his bullying nature because of the other, charming side of his character, said Kevin. "There aren't that many top jobs in Fleet Street. How many editors of national newspapers are there? If you are in positions of interest and power in an exciting environment, you put up with a lot."

He even forced senior directors to open mail in the mail room at Pergamon Press and would harangue them if they dealt with it wrongly. "It was his way of imposing control and putting the fear of God into people," Kevin said.

The case continues today.

An early Christmas box from Ford.

Options	Fiesta 1.1 LX 5 door	Escort 1.6 LX 5 door	Mondeo 1.8 LX 5 door
Mileage	12,000 pa	12,000 pa	12,000 pa
Recommended Retail Price ⁽¹⁾	£8,610	£11,995	£13,185
Estimated On-The-Road Price ⁽²⁾	£9,215	£12,600	£13,790
Deposit (%)	20%	20%	20%
Deposit (£)	£1,843	£2,520	£2,758
Balance	£7,372	£10,080	£11,032
Total Charges for Credit ⁽³⁾	£1,755.18	£2,393.95	£2,599.68
Total Credit Price	£10,970.18	£14,993.95	£16,389.68
Term (months)	25	25	25
Number of Monthly Payments	24	24	24
Monthly Payments	£216.57	£292.55	£323.97
Optional Final Payment to Purchase ⁽⁴⁾	£3,874.50	£5,397.75	£5,801.40
APR	16.0%	15.8%	15.8%
CHRISTMAS BOX CHEQUE	£649.71	£877.65	£971.91

Drive away a new Fiesta LX, Mondeo LX or Escort Ghia, Si or LX model on Options between October 1st and November 30th, and Ford will pay you a sum equal

to 3 monthly payments. For more information, contact your Ford Dealer or call 0800 111 222. It's the only time you'll be able to open the box and take the money.



Subject to model availability. Finance provided subject to status ie over 18s only. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. Certain categories of business users will be ineligible. (1) Including VAT at 17.5% as at October 1, 1995. (2) Includes delivery, plates, fuel and 12 months road fund licence. (3) Includes £55 administration fee (inc VAT) payable with the first monthly payment. (4) Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition. Written Options customers available from Ford Credit Europe plc. PO Box 46, Brackley MK13 3AR. Applies to vehicles registered between 1/10/95 and 30/11/95. Financed under Ford Credit's 24 month Options Hire Purchase Agreement. This payment will be made by Ford Motor Company Ltd and shall not affect the customer's liabilities under the Options Hire Purchase Agreement with Ford Credit Europe plc and shall exclude the administration fee and any Payment Protection Plan premiums.



Dominant character: Robert Maxwell 'bullied subordinates'

Delia's perfect recipe for another bestseller

RHYS WILLIAMS
Media Correspondent

The cookery author Delia Smith has stormed the autumn bestseller list with her latest recipe book, *Winter Collection*.

The book has sold 500,000 in its first week, taking it to the top of the hardback list ahead of *Enigma*, Robert Harris's long awaited follow-up to *Fatherland*, and Nigel Mansell's *Autobiography*.

Ms Smith's publishers, BBC Books, had originally hoped the *Winter Collection* would pass the half-million mark by Christmas, but extraordinary levels of demand - fuelled by the interest created by her last big book *Summer Collection* and vigorous price discounting - should see sales pass 700,000 by mid-November.

Smith's books have sold more than 8 million copies. The *Cookery Course* has ever been out of the top 20 since its first appearance in 1978, while *Summer Collection* published two years ago sold more than a million on the back of a television

series, which was repeated this summer. The launch of the *Winter Collection* was timed to coincide with a new television series starting last Wednesday.

Such has been the interest in her culinary ideas that when she broadcast a recipe for truffle torte in December 1990, listing among the ingredients "liquid glucose" (available from chemists), pharmacies the length and breadth of Britain promptly sold out.

However, there is no doubt that the climate of discounting created by the collapse of the Net Book Agreement has contributed significantly to the pace of the *Winter Collection*'s sales. Waterstone's is selling the £15.99 book for £10.99, as are Woolworths and Sainsbury's.

Book Warehouse is offering a discount price of £9.99 - 41p cheaper than small independent shops can buy the book wholesale. This has led to fears that some bookshops will be priced out of business in their key gift-buying season.

Ever so English, page 19

news

Police excluded from Guinness case, court told

JAMES CUSICK

A "star chamber" agreement was made to keep the police out of the investigation into Guinness's 1986 multi-billion pound takeover of Distillers, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

On the first day of the appeals of the four men convicted in the Guinness affair, counsel for Ernest Saunders, the former chief executive of Guinness, said the "crux of this case" would be that Department of Trade and Industry inspectors in effect became "evidence gatherers" for a prosecuting team that deliberately excluded the police because they had less investigative power than the inspectors.

Jonathan Caplan QC said that documents disclosed this year - five years after the first Guinness trial - had revealed what he called a "shameless fishing expedition".

In 1986 the DTI first appointed inspectors to investigate Guinness's affairs. The appointments were essentially government-ordered and investigated concerns that "concert party" activities centring on an illegal share support scheme had assisted Guinness in the

takeover of Distillers. According to Mr Caplan, the disclosed documents showed that the DTI inspectors were regarded as "more efficient" in uncovering facts than the police; and that the police, at key stages of the investigations, were "kept out" because they had less powers than the inspectors.

Under the then law the inspectors had the power to compel those they interviewed to give answers and that failure to do so could end in imprisonment. The legal privileges of avoiding self-incrimination and the right to silence were thus denied by failing to bring in the police at an appropriate time, said Mr Caplan.

In 1990 Mr Saunders, along with the property tycoon, Gerald Ronson, and a former stockbroker, Anthony Farnes, all received jail sentences over their involvement in the share price support scheme. The fourth man, Jack Lyons, a leading consultant, received a £3m fine and was stripped of his knighthood.

The appeals - estimated to last a month - are expected to be based on the appellants' claims that they were denied their rights to silence and that the Serious Fraud Office also

withheld key evidence from defence counsel.

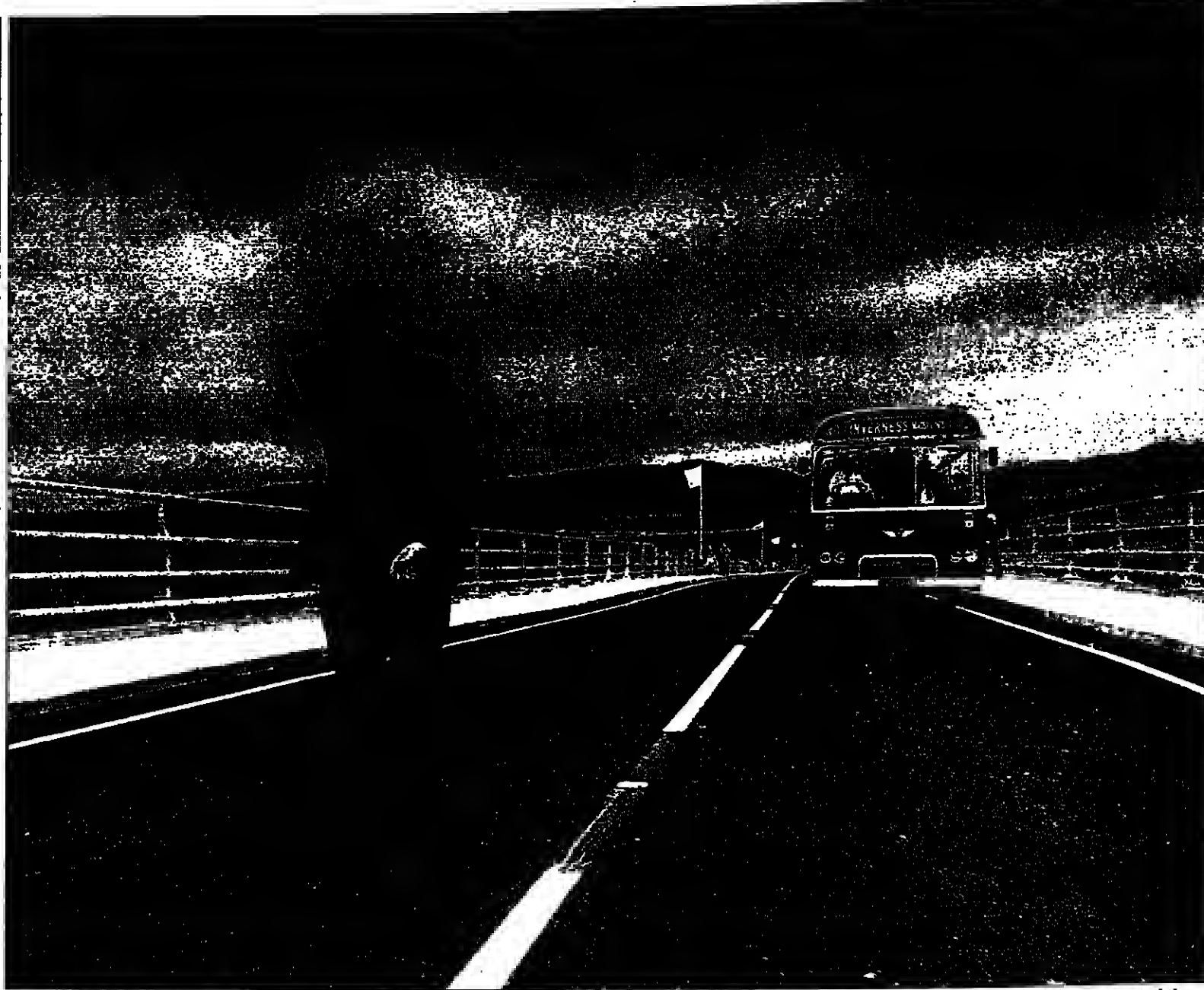
The appeal is the latest legal battle in the Guinness saga that is so far estimated to have cost the taxpayer £27m.

In court yesterday before the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, Mr Justice Macpherson and Mr Justice Potter, Mr Caplan argued that as there was a criminal prosecution of people involved in the Distillers takeover then it was wrong for the DTI inspectors and not the police to be involved.

Lord Taylor suggested that Mr Caplan was "sitting on a very narrow fence". He said that all except Mr Saunders were arguing that even when all information was finally gathered there was still no case to argue.

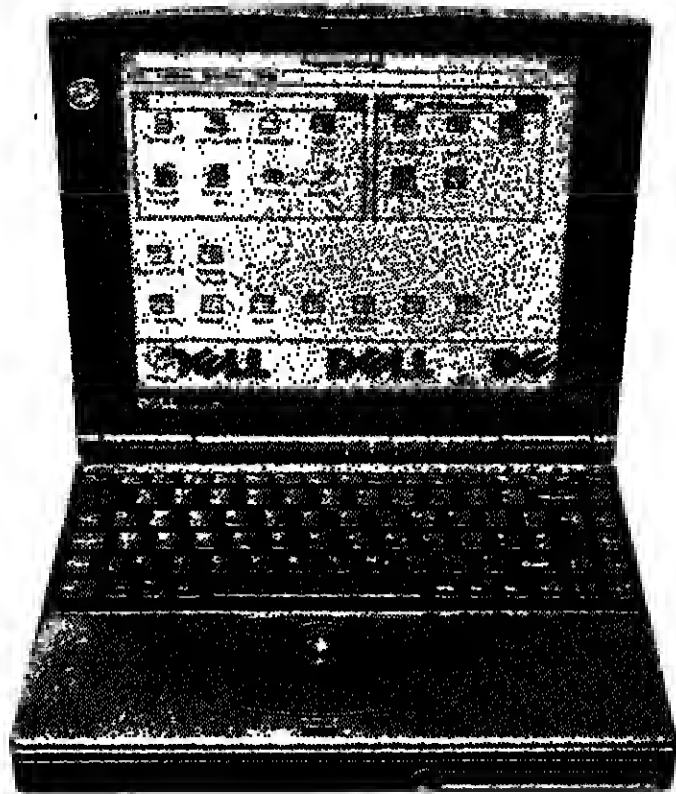
Mr Caplan was highly critical of meetings between the DTI inspectors and the Office of the DPP which took place between December 1986 and March 1987. "We criticised the fact that the inspectors were meeting the prosecution and discussing prosecution matters such as witnesses and evidence. These should never have taken place... This is the business of the prosecution not the business of company inspectors."

The trial continues today.

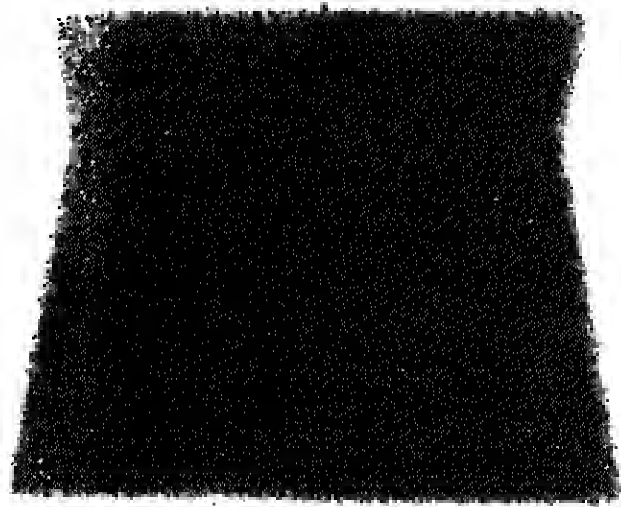


Over the seas: Michael Forsyth, Secretary of State for Scotland, on the controversial Skye Bridge, which he opened yesterday. The new island link to the mainland has meant the end of the legendary ferry service, and locals are dismayed by the size of the tolls. Photograph: Drew Farrell

All the plus points of a desktop



minus the desk.



THE DELL LATITUDE FAMILY
FROM £1,399 (+ VAT & DELIVERY)



Now you really don't need a desk to enjoy the benefits of desktop computing. Our Latitude family of notebooks includes models with Pentium processors with speeds up to 300MHz and removable hard drives of up to 1.2Gb. You may not believe your eyes - but you won't have to strain them either - our screens are bigger and brighter than ever. And you can keep on and on looking. Dell offers industry leading battery technology and advanced power management to let you stay out of the office longer. But what happens when you're back?

Your Dell Latitude can be integrated seamlessly into your company's desktop environment.

With Latitude prices starting at just £1,399 (plus VAT & delivery) how much longer can you afford to stay stuck at your desk? Call Dell now for details on 01344 720000.

Dell, the Dell logo and Latitude are registered trademarks of the Dell Computer Corporation. Intel, Intel Inside and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Delivery is charged at £25 + VAT per system. Prices correct at 16.10.96. Dell Retail is offered (subject to stock) to business buying 1 year or more. The prices listed reflect the information available at time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation. The photograph(s) product may not always match the specifications in the advert. The picture is not intended to be representative of the actual screen image quality. Prices do not include VAT & delivery. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Whiteley Road, Wokingham, Berkshire, RG12 1BN.

DELL DIRECT

01344 720000
Between 8am & 8pm Weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

Judges' claims criticised by Labour law chief

STEPHEN WARD
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, claimed last night that some senior judges were challenging the constitution by saying they have the right to overturn some laws.

Lord Irvine made the assertions during a speech detailing the developing relationship between Parliament and the judiciary, and the increasing use of the courts for judicial review of government policy.

Speaking to the Administrative Law Bar Association in London, he picked out examples of senior judges challenging the supremacy of Parliament while speaking outside court which all made assertions "contrary to the established laws and constitution of the United Kingdom... since 1688".

He said: "Recently... a number of English judges, notably Lord Woolf, have written extra-judicially that in certain purely

domestic circumstances the courts may hold invalid statutes duly passed by Parliament."

The Law Lord, Lord Woolf, had argued that the courts "could justifiably refuse to recognise and give effect to legislative action which sought to undermine the rule of law by removing or substantially impairing the powers of review of the High Court".

Lord Irvine also quoted a speech by the High Court judge Sir John Laws in which he said that the democratic credentials of an elected government could not justify its enjoyment of a right to abolish fundamental freedoms. Sir John had added: "The need for higher order law is dictated by the logic of the very notion of a government under law... The doctrine of parliamentary sovereignty cannot be vouched by parliamentary legislation; a higher-order law confers it and must of necessity limit it".

Lord Irvine cited a second

High Court judge, Sir Stephen Sedley, maintaining that sovereignty lies not in Parliament but in the constitution, which consists of a framework of principles, such as democracy and respect for human rights which cannot be denied, even by Act of Parliament.

Lord Irvine said there had been no sufficiently important abuse by Parliament to justify judges rewriting the constitution in this way.

"Many would regard as inconceivable, on the part of any Parliament which we can presently contemplate, any assault upon the basic tenets of democracy which might call for the invocation of the judicial power claimed, and if there were an attack, the judges could probably do nothing about it."

"I am as conscious as any of the need for eternal vigilance. But if there ever were such an assault, it would surely be on the political battlefield the issue would be resolved."

CELLPHONES DIRECT AIRTIME DIRECT

Before you buy a mobile phone, check out who will be billing the airtime. Cellphones Direct is the only dedicated mail order supplier of mobile phones that is also a licensed airtime provider.

So if you need any help or advice with either your phone or your airtime, you only need to speak to one company, Cellphones Direct. No middleman. No hidden extras. No nasty surprises. Just the best phones at the best prices. Direct to your door.

FREE SERVICE ON TO VOICEMAIL LOWCALL
Monthly Rental: £15 (£12.77 + VAT)
Peak Calls: 50p per min (42.5p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls: 25p per min (17p + VAT)
Peak Times 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri
Lowest bills charged at £1.77 inc VAT per month. Line rental (included monthly in advance) and airtime charges will be debited to your nominated credit/charge or Delta card. Calls charged in units of 30 seconds after the first minute.
14 DAY PEACE OF MIND
14 day money back guarantee. Phone for full details.

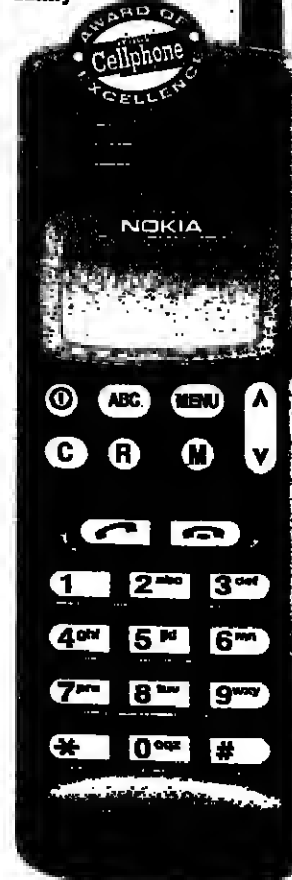
FREE IN-CAR BATTERY SAVER/CHARGER
PLUS
FREE LEATHER CARRYING CASE
PLUS
FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS
TOGETHER WORTH OVER £48.50

Cellphones

THE NAME TO TRUST IN TELEPHONE SHOPPING

LIMITED OFFER
£9.99 INC. VAT
FREE CONNECTION TO VOICEMAIL LOWCALL

NOKIA MODEL 101
50 name/number memory
100 mins talk-time
22 hrs standby-time
Complete with mains charger and 800 mAh battery



FREEPHONE 0500 000 888
CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE. WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM. WEEKENDS 9AM TO 5PM.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND HAVE REF 1000. CREDIT CARDS ARE SUBJECT TO ACCEPTANCE BY CELLPHONES DIRECT. Offer subject to status and a standard airtime contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 125 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4JN. Website terms and conditions available on request. © Copyright. Registered No 293522.

Teaching standards: Rules for inspectors changed to put more emphasis on what goes on in the classroom

Schools to be marked on pupil performance

JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Teaching standards in schools will be graded from one to seven and the results published in inspection reports, according to new rules published yesterday.

The rules for inspectors from the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) have been produced after complaints that inspectors demand too much paperwork and spend too much time examining the way in which schools are organised.

Reports under the new system will state the proportion of teaching that is very good (grades 1 and 2), the proportion that is satisfactory or better (grades 3 to 5), and that which is less than satisfactory (grades 6 and 7). There will still be no overall grade for schools.

Chris Woodhead, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, said "We believe very strongly that in-

spection must focus on standards of pupils and the quality of teaching in schools. The new guidance "is better than the old because it is shorter, sharper and goes to the heart of the matter: the classroom".

Inspectors will have to give examples of successful and unsuccessful teaching methods that they have observed in a school. The new rules say that judgements about schools' management should be based on the effect it has on raising standards. Inspectors should establish whether heads know what is going on in classrooms and are taking steps to improve it.

Mr Woodhead will announce shortly the procedures for implementing the Prime Minister's plan for reporting the best and the worst teachers to the head after an inspection.

Under the present scheme, introduced three years ago, schools are inspected every

four years by privatised teams of inspectors, and a team of experts may be sent in to take over schools that fail inspections. A school's overall performance will still be judged on its management, discipline and attendance, as well as its educational standards.

Mr Woodhead said that there were no plans to publish overall grades for schools. "It is a balance between giving parents as much information as we have - and bombarding people with too much statistical information."

All reports will have to contain pupils' achievements, measured against national targets and the schools' own targets. Inspectors will no longer try to measure pupils' potential - which has proved difficult - but will look at their progress compared with their previous performance. The emphasis in reporting achievements will be

on the core subjects of English, Maths and Science.

Reports must be written in plain English and not according to a predetermined formula. Peter Matthews, head of Ofsted's quality assurance team, said: "Inspectors will be asked to make unequivocal judgements using appropriate adjectives. Reports have been criticised for being too vague and woolly."

Schools will not need to produce as many documents before the inspection. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said the reduction in bureaucracy was welcome but added: "These inspections will continue to be a snapshot of what happens in our schools. There are no proposals for follow up support and advice, an essential element previously provided by local authorities but which has been a casualty of the new system."

New system put to the test

The jury is still out on whether the new, privatised school inspection system has led to better schools. Ofsted began inspecting secondary schools in 1993 and has so far visited just over half of them; primary inspections began a year later and less than a quarter have been covered.

It is still too soon for improvements to be measured, though Ofsted did measure a drop in the number of unsatisfactory lessons between 1993 and 1994 from more than a quarter to less than a fifth.

However, a steady rise in examination results started long before the inspection system was reformed, with the proportion of good grades at GCSE going up by 7 per cent in as many years.

The battle still rages over whether these better results

mean higher standards in schools or lower standards among the examining boards, but while some schools may have cleaned up their acts, others certainly have not.

Labour's education spokesman, David Blunkett, has just revealed that while the top 25 per cent of pupils gain the equivalent of 12 GCSEs at grade C, the bottom 25 per cent get just one. The gap between the best and the worst of our pupils - and our schools - is still far too wide.

Having said all that, inspection has made schools scrutinise every aspect of their lives with a new zeal. Ofsted believes that the very prospect of inspection has increased the mo-

tivation of schools which have not been visited.

There are some examples of improvement through inspection. Crook Primary in Co Durham was given a clean bill of health this year, 18 months after being the first mainstream school found to be failing under Ofsted. But its staff say that their experience - traumatic in the extreme and involving the early retirement of the head-teacher on health grounds - should not be repeated.

Experts agree that school improvement is down to the efforts of staff, governors and pupils. Here, Ofsted's new framework can only have a moderate effect. Self-evaluation is still not central to the process. Unless schools play a bigger role, there is a danger that staff will simply be a sign of relief when the inspectors de-

part, rather than setting to work on the necessary changes.

Good schools benefit from inspection because they already constantly monitor what they do and are used to making modifications. Failing schools find that a bad report galvanises their local authorities into action on their behalf. But mediocre schools receive little back-up after their inspections and may be left floundering.

Without support, many such schools find it difficult to translate criticism into positive action. Under Ofsted's new regime, inspectors will continue to go into schools, pass judgements and go away. They leave behind staff who feel beleaguered, exhausted, and simply relieved that the whole business is over for another four years.

FRAN ABRAMS



Children at work: Crook Primary, Co Durham, after a traumatic time Photograph: North News

Labour policies attacked by GPs

GLENDIA COOPER

The Labour Party's policy to abolish GP fundholding would lead to worsening patient care and a growth in private medicine, with a "black market" in health care developing, fundholding GPs said yesterday.

Their criticism came as Bupa, the country's biggest health insurance company, launched the first "private GP" scheme. Subscribers to the scheme, called Health Direct, will pay £6 a month for unlimited advice from GPs over the telephone.

Visits will cost £30, with surgeries open as late as 9pm. Patients will meet the full cost of any drugs prescribed.

Aimed at London commuters, the plan is based in Reading and covers Berkshire, south Oxfordshire and north Hampshire, but if successful it could be introduced nationally.

Dr Ian Bogle, chairman of the GPs' committee for the BMA, described the Bupa plan as "bad news" for the health service. "This is two-tierism by ability to pay," he said. "It's an alarming development."

But a spokeswoman for Bupa said the company was "relieving the burden of care on some GP services... Fewer people will be troubling their family doctor."

And Dr Rhidian Morris, chairman of the National Association of Fundholding Practices, urged Labour to think again over their commitment to phase out fundholding, otherwise the private sector would be able to take over an increasing amount of primary care.

Fundholding gives GPs, rather than the local health authority, the cash to pay for hospital and community services for their patients. Nearly one in three practices in England and Wales is now fundholding.

Mr Morris said no party had promised more money for the NHS and where strict controls had been imposed in other countries, particularly eastern Europe, "they had developed a black market in health care".

You close your laptop. You push back your seat and adjust your footrest. A taste of Brie. A sip of Bordeaux.

You turn the sound up a notch and hope you won't be arriving too soon.

DIRECT ME CT
 £9
 NOKIA
 0500 000 88

politics

MP's defection: Loud cheers as Labour's latest recruit crosses the floor

Howarth wins rebuke in new role

JOHN RENTOUL
Political Correspondent

Alan Howarth, elected three years ago as the Conservative MP for Stratford-on-Avon, took his seat on the opposition benches yesterday to loud Labour cheers.

While in the Commons, he collected "probably 25" letters from Tory MPs, "not at all endorsing my decision, but people have been kind enough to respect my integrity", he said.

The symbolic moment of crossing the floor of the House - the first time an MP has gone from Tory to Labour - was timed to embarrass Michael Heseltine as he rose to take his first question time as Deputy Prime Minister.

But Mr Howarth later fluffed his first words from the Labour side, being rebuked by Michael Morris, a deputy speaker, for asking six questions instead of one when he intervened in the speech of Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Defence, whose party conference speech "of extraordinary xenophobia and anti-foreigner prejudice" Mr Howarth said confirmed his decision to change parties.

Mr Portillo returned the in-

sult by noting that Mr Howarth had become "no less verbose in his transition to the other side of the House". But he did not answer his question, about the dangers of British industry depending so heavily on arms exports.

Mr Howarth is the proud possessor of a Labour Party membership card, but is not yet technically a Labour MP, because he is waiting for his application to take the Labour whip to be approved. But he was warmly welcomed by all the Labour MPs he met.

Before his debut in the Commons, he had lunch as an honorary Labour MP, under the glare of the television camera lights, with Peter Snape and Dennis Turner, leaders of the West Midlands group of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Mr Howarth then had to brave the photographers, the compliments of Labour MPs and mixed responses of Tories, as he entered the Palace of Westminster in the Labour interest. "I got up this morning and looked at the table - they informed me I was going to have to run a gauntlet of hate. But it wasn't really like that," he said.

Mr Snape ushered his new



New Labour: Tory party defector Alan Howarth (centre) arriving at the House of Commons yesterday with the Labour MP Dennis Turner. Photograph: Geraint Lewis

colleague into the tea room, the MPs' inner sanctum, where he "crossed the room" rather than the floor by sitting at the Labour end near the door. "I have never been poured so many cups of tea," he said.

Other practical arrangements

had to be discussed as Parliament reopened for business after the three-month summer recess. Mr Howarth has an office in the Palace, which he is likely to retain. And he said his secretary, Patricia Constant, would be true to her name.

Mr Howarth, whose defection was announced the Sunday before Tory conference in an elaborate media operation, already sounds like a partisan Labour MP. Last weekend he accused the Tories of peddling "smears and lies" against him.

Defector's entrance sweeps away 'Sooty'

Labour uses questions to Heseltine to introduce ex-Tory MP ■ Members pay tribute to former prime minister

Mr Hain demanded to know why Mr Heseltine's title on the Commons order paper had been changed from First Secretary of State in the summer to Deputy Prime Minister now. Would it be surrogate party chairman next and shouldn't his salary be partly funded by Central Office - or couldn't Central Office afford it?

Combining his question with a welcome for Mr Howarth, John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, said: "Since you took charge of deregulation and

is the one of my honourable friend... who saw through the Labour Party long before their own leaders flirted with social democracy and ended up serving his country as a minister in a Conservative government."

Raising a familiar refrain, David Winnick, Labour MP for Walsall North, rose to ask whether Mr Heseltine would resign if there was no improvement in government, or was he going to have one more try at getting the job he really wanted. Mr Heseltine declared that Mr Winnick had overlooked the "cynicism of your own party conference, which saw the leadership of your party for as long as I've been in active politics - a total and cynical abdication of everything that most Labour MPs believe in". To see the concept of new Labour, with Mr Howarth and Dennis Skinner, the Bolsover leftwinger, on the same side of the House was a "mesmerising thought".

It will go down as one of those Commons shows that never quite lived up to its advance billing ground.

Mr Hain turned to paying his respects to former Tory Prime Minister Lord Home of Hirsford, who did last week aged 92. Leading the tributes, John Major said he was "one of those people who light up politics with their integrity". For Tony Blair, the Labour leader, he was "a man of honour who stayed a man of honour... not a man from another age, but a rarity in any age".

INSIDE
PARLIAMENT
Patricia
Wynn Davies

competition policy, we've seen a record number of new regulations, a record number of business failures and Britain has slipped five places in the world competitive league. Isn't it about time on your own policies that the bop-along deputy shouted 'about turn'?"

Declaring the joke "pathetic", Mr Heseltine said he would have hoped a good deal better had he been abandoning his principles and policies, but still felt driven to take up the past of the junior public service minister, John Horgan, sitting a few feet away. "I think there is a better journey," Mr Heseltine loftily declared as if the direction lessened the crime. "That

Elite forces to form joint rapid deployment unit

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Defence Correspondent

Britain's fastest-moving elite forces including Royal Marines, paratroops and elements of the SAS are to be placed under a new command designed to enable them to intervene more swiftly and effectively around the world, Michael Portillo, the Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday.

The "Joint Rapid Deployment Force" will be available from August next year for operations on behalf of the UK, Nato, the Western European Union - European countries in Nato - or the United Nations. Rather than cobbling forces together at the last minute in response to crises, the units from all three services, will have

trained together to enable quicker deployment.

An implementation team under a Royal Marines brigadier, Jonathan Thomson, is being formed to finalise the formation of the JRDF by 1 August 1996.

The force will be based on 10,000 troops of the 3rd Commando Brigade, based at Plymouth, and the 5th Airborne Brigade, based at Aldershot. The Marines' Special Boat Service and the SAS can also be placed under command of the new force headquarters.

These units have proved too lightly equipped for operations such as those in Bosnia and the JRDF headquarters will be able to reinforce them with armoured battle groups, each about 1,000-strong, with tanks and Warrior infantry fighting ve-

hicles. Support helicopters, Hercules aircraft, naval ships, civilian ships and aircraft may also be available to the force.

The idea for the force was announced by the then Secretary of State for Defence, Malcolm Rifkind, last July. A joint headquarters to mastermind operations round the world is being set up at Northwood, Middlesex. The MoD said recent announcements on the purchase of Chinook and EH101 support helicopters and C-130 Hercules transport planes "all have relevance" to the new force. So do new amphibious ships. The new commando helicopter carrier, HMS Ocean, was launched on the Clyde last Wednesday, and is now being fitted out at Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering at Barrow-in-Furness.

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

FEEL THINK ACT
Feel bitter. Tea, coffee and sugar can make big profits for a few while leaving many more facing hardship. Think how many families will earn decent wages if you switch to fairly traded goods. Act now. Send the coupon and we'll show you how you can join our campaign for fair trade and a fairer world.

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____
To: Christian Aid, Freepost, London SE1 7YY or call 0891 33 34 35
(Calls at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.) Registered Charity No 208003

These days, it only takes a matter of months for your business to look out of date.

At least choose healthcare that's always setting the trend.

On-going investment in our Customhealth computer system keeps us one jump ahead of the industry. It enables us to offer the finest, most efficient administration - even tailor schemes

and documentation to suit the larger company.

And our dedicated service - rated top in our recent Gallup poll - will never go out of fashion.

Guardian
Health

مكتبة الادب

Accused Briton fears drug gang will kill family

STEPHEN VINES
Singapore

John Martin Scripps, the 35-year-old Briton accused of murdering a South African and two Canadians, gave evidence for the first time yesterday in Singapore's Supreme Court.

He claimed that members of his family could be killed by a drugs gang if he revealed the name of an accomplice who, he alleges, disposed of the body of his South African victim.

Mr Scripps, who is also known as John Martin, admitted that he killed Gerard George Lowe, 32, a South African brewery employee who was holidaying in Singapore. However, he claimed that Mr Lowe's body was "disarticulated" by an unnamed British "friend" who he said was an associate from the past when he "was doing drugs".

He claimed he would be labelled as a "grass" if he named the man, who he alleges is involved in a number of criminal activities and was supposed to have helped him buy clothes for

a shop that he was opening in Mexico.

Speaking hesitantly, and barely audible, Mr Scripps told the court: "I know what these people are capable of. I just can't give the person's name. It's my life or my family's. I suppose it will have to be mine."

His lawyer, Edmond Pereira, is trying to establish that Mr Lowe's murder was unpremeditated. Mr Scripps has denied killing two Canadians, Sheila Damude, 49, and her son Darin, 23 - in the Thai resort of Phuket. However, yesterday he admitted - for the first time - that he had met the couple and shared a taxi with them from the airport to the hotel where he occupied an adjacent room and, after they disappeared, moved into their room.

The court has heard evidence that the bodies of the Damudes were expertly chopped up, as was the body of Mr Lowe. A British witness has also testified how he taught butchery skills to Mr Scripps while he was in prison.

However, Mr Scripps said: "I

didn't cut the body up. I've worked in a butcher's but this is totally different."

He claims that he accidentally killed Mr Lowe with a 3.3lb hammer after he woke up to find the South African touching his backside and smiling at him. The two men had met at Singapore's international airport and Mr Scripps said he agreed to share a hotel room with him because accommodation was hard to obtain and he wanted to save money. "I just freaked out," he said. "I've had experience of such things in the past and I was very frightened."

He claimed that an Israeli soldier tried to rape him while he was in an Israeli prison in 1978 for non-payment of a fine. Mr Scripps also said that two men attempted to rape him in prison in Britain last year while he was taking a shower. "I tried to fight. I locked myself in my cell for a couple of days after," he said. "I'm not gay. I don't believe in that sort of thing."

Mr Lowe's widow has testified that her husband is not gay. The trial continues.

Givenchy classics bid Paris adieu



Swan song: Givenchy (left) at his final show which featured 'Sabrina' dresses (right)

Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

TAMSIN BLANCHARD
Paris

Hubert de Givenchy, the 68-year-old couturier who opened the House of Givenchy in 1952, bade his final goodbye yesterday with a collection of the classic pieces that have earned him a loyal following over the years.

Last July, there were tears on the catwalk and in the audience when one of the last great gentlemen of old-school Paris couture received a standing ovation for his last *haute couture* collection. Yesterday, the atmos-

phere at the ready-to-wear collection for spring-summer '96 was not so emotionally charged. And even during his swansong, buyers, clients and press could not help but compare this gentle collection with the wild, fantastical and hyped-up show that Givenchy's British successor, John Galiano, presented the night before.

The spirit of Givenchy's great friend and muse, Audrey Hepburn, was with him as the music from *Breakfast at Tiffany's* played to accompany 1950s cocktail dresses with bell-

shaped skirts like those worn by the actress in the film *Sabrina*. There were also timeless column evening dresses that will no doubt continue to be worn and cherished by the women whose wardrobes have relied on Givenchy over the years, long into the new Galiano regime.

For the daytime, there were simple jersey dresses, classic skirt suits and safari-style belted jackets with matching pants.

There was also the classic ootie look that women love - soft cardigan jackets and twin-sets in navy and white, worn with

wide cream pants. Givenchy has always erred on the side of discreet good taste. He has always shown wearable clothes rather than show-stoppers and the clothes have been more important than the models wearing them. As a characteristically discreet salute to his friendship with Hollywood, there were suits printed with a scattering of stars.

His final bow was as low key and well-mannered as his collections. There was no hysteria, just a quiet and graceful wave goodbye.

Strike threat to NHS trusts

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

A hit list of "tight-fisted" National Health Service trusts was yesterday targeted for industrial action over pay by leaders of more than 300,000 nurses and other health workers.

Unison, the largest health union, gave authority for ballots on disruption including strikes at 66 trusts which had failed to offer an increase of 3 per cent "without strings".

The strategy was announced after the union revealed a four-to-one vote in favour of a new bargaining structure which includes both an element of central and local negotiations.

Because national pay rates will be uprated with reference to local outcomes, the union revealed its intention to maximise offers by individual trusts.

Bob Abberley, head of health at Unison, said he was confident that local negotiations would yield 3 per cent, but said he was determined to back industrial action where trusts refused.

Some of the trusts had offered less than 3 per cent, while others had offered the increase to some staff only. Unison calculates that out of 521 trusts, 472 have made offers, 49 had to reveal their intentions and 66 were "unacceptable".

Under an offer this year nurses were awarded 1 per cent nationally with the opportunity to negotiate up to 2 per cent more at local level.

A deal to establish a framework for negotiations in future had attracted "overwhelming" support among the 325,000 members of Unison involved.

In the first part of a two-year cycle, pay rates will be thrashed out locally.

In the second year, however, national minimum rates will be increased in line with local outcomes before further trust-based bargaining.

The Department of Health welcomed the union's endorsement of the formula, but said local offers were a matter for trust managers.

Hansard 'should be on Net'

CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Correspondent

The daily proceedings and laws made by Parliament should be distributed freely over the Internet, replacing the present system which sells it commercially for at least £2,500 a year, the Campaign for Freedom of Information says. Its views were backed by the Labour Party, which said it was "judicious" that the proceedings were not more widely available.

The Campaign also warns that the growing availability of machines which can scan the

contents of documents on to computers means that the copyright of Her Majesty's Stationery Office on parliamentary proceedings will be broken anyway "sooner rather than later".

Maurice Frankel, the Campaign's director, says that HMSO practices "unacceptable commercial exploitation" by selling the contents of Hansard to interested parties. A single day's copy costs £11.70. The Campaign points out that in the US, "there is no copyright in official information" and that the American equivalent of Hansard is easily available on

the public computer network. Graham Allen, Labour MP for Nottingham North, said that the party wanted everybody to be able to access the Internet, but he did not promise free access.

Compiling Hansard costs millions of pounds each year, but HMSO, like other government agencies, has come under increasing pressure in the past decade to charge for commercial use of its information. Agencies such as HMSO and the Ordnance Survey generate revenues of about £150m annually from sales of data collected by public funds.

That depends on how far you're going.

Aberdeen Abu Dhabi Accra
Addis Ababa Alexandria Almaty
Amsterdam Ankara Antalya
Asmara Athens Atlanta Bahrain
Baku Bangkok Barcelona Basle
Bastia Beijing Belfast Belgrade
Bergen Berlin Beyrouth Bilbao
Birmingham Bogota Bologna
Bombay Bonn Boston Bremen
Brussels Bucharest Budapest
Buenos Aires Cagliari Cairo
Calgary Cape Town Caracas
Casablanca Catania Chicago
Cincinnati Cleveland Cologne
Columbus Copenhagen Dallas
Damascus Delhi Denpasar
Denver Des Moines Detroit
Dhahran Dresden Dubai Dublin
Dundee Dusseldorf Edinburgh
Ekaterinburg Faro Florence
Frankfurt Friedrichshafen
Geneva Genoa Glasgow
Garmisch-Partenkirchen Graz

Guernsey Hamburg Hanover
Harare Hartford Heidelberg
Helsinki Heraklion Ho Chi Minh
City Hong Kong Honolulu
Houston Indianapolis Innsbruck
Istanbul Izmir Jakarta Jeddah
Jersey Johannesburg Kansas
City Karachi Kathmandu
Katowice Khartoum Kiel Kiev
Klagenfurt Kuala Lumpur Kuwait
Lagos Larnaca Las Palmas Las
Vegas Leipzig Lima Linz Lisbon
Ljubljana London City/Heathrow
Los Angeles Luxembourg
Lyon Madras Madrid Malaga Malta
Linate/Malpensa Manchester
Manila Mannheim Marseille
Mexico City Miami Milan
Minneapolis Minsk Montreal
Moscow Munich Nuremberg
Naples New York
Orlando
Osaka

Olbia Omaha Ontario Orlando
Osaka Oslo Palma Paris Charles
de Gaulle/Orly Philadelphia
Phoenix Pisa Pittsburgh
Portland Porto Prague Quito
Recife Reykjavik Riga Rio de
Janeiro Riyadh Rome Rome
Saarbrücken Sacramento Salt
Lake City Salzburg San Diego
San Francisco Sanaa Santa
Ana Santiago de Chile Sao Paulo
Seattle Seoul Shanghai
Singapore Sofia St Petersburg
St Louis Stockholm Strasbourg
Stuttgart Taipei Tallinn Tampa
Tashkent Tehran Tel Aviv
Tenerife Thessaloniki
Tokyo Toronto Transilvania
Tunis

For your free brochure on our world-wide services to 220 destinations call 0800 737 300 or send this coupon to:

Lufthansa
Freepost CL2075
Fenton Way Basildon
Essex SS15 5BR
United Kingdom
Name:
Address:

Postcode:
Tel:



Lufthansa

WASHINGTON RALLY

A 'million' black men march on the capital

JOHN CARLIN
Washington

"There is nothing more painful to me," Jesse Jackson said a couple of years ago, "than to walk down the street and hear footsteps and start thinking about robbery, then to look around and see someone white and feel relieved."

Mr Jackson's famously candid remark goes to the heart of the predicament black American men sought to address in their Million Man gathering in Washington yesterday. It also went to the heart of my predicament as I ventured, a solitary paleface, into the alien throng.

I was living, on the surface of things, white America's ultimate urban nightmare. Never mind the footsteps. I had black men to the right of me, black men to the left, black men behind and black men ahead. Hundreds of thousands of them flowing up and down the mile-long Mall, between the National Monument obelisk and the domed Capitol.

It felt comfortable. Conspicuous as I was, hardly anybody gave me a second glance. Those who did nodded and smiled, as if to reassure me. No one muttered a racist comment. I felt as if I'd stumbled into a giant family picnic.

Vendors sold T-shirts, car-stickers, necklaces and quasi-African medicinal potions. Every third man appeared to be holding a camera. One posed in front of the National Monument with a fist held high in a black power salute and a big grin on his face. The elderly men sat on the Mall's park benches; some of the younger ones lay down on the grass. A lot were eating hamburgers and hot dogs and chocolate biscuits.

After 10 minutes I saw my first white man, a beggar with three days' growth of beard and a torn baseball cap. He went up to a group of half a dozen young black men. He said something to them. One reached into a bag and banded him an apricot pie.

Then I saw a white policeman reclining on a motorbike. A young marcher greeted him and asked if he would pose for a picture. The policeman



Raising their voices: Blacks on the march taking part in a chant during the rally on the Washington Mall

Photograph: Ron Thomas/Reuters

smiled, the young man held the policeman's hand in a comradely grip and another man took the photograph. So much for the all-policemen-are-racists conclusion that black people are supposed to have taken away from the OJ Simpson trial. A couple of other marchers observed the scene with quizzical disapproval, but there was no sign that they planned to exact any retribution, verbal or otherwise.

This was what the T-shirts said: "We've lost more brothers to our own than to the Klu Klux Klan"; "I am my brother's keeper"; "Dare to keep kids off drugs"; "The black man is back"; "If you think all black men are criminals, dope-pushers, wife-beaters ... then YOU'RE WRONG!"; "After

400 years of slavery and oppression we have identified our enemy ... IT IS US!" Half a dozen white demonstrators were standing under a tree, holding banners saying: "We are against all racism - black and white". Evidently they had a problem with Louis Farrakhan, the anti-Semitic Nation of Islam leader who organised yesterday's event. Black men shook their heads and posed for group pictures.

Attracting almost as much attention was a man in a suit wearing a yellow button which read "Operation Big Vote". He handed out forms and asked marchers to sit down for a minute and register to vote. Other "Operation Big Vote" activists were doing a busy trade all over the Mall amphitheatre.

If there was one thing these marchers were not doing, it was planning revolution. They were not bowing out of the system. They were gearing up to turn out in greater numbers at next year's presidential elections, thereby giving their stamp of legitimacy to the political establishment that some of their leaders so deride.

During the morning warm-ups, speakers whose faces nobody recognised kept up a constant babble. Some of them engaged in a little race-baiting: "We're not at work today, Mr Charlie's gotta find someone else to fix his garden today!" A nice lady from Operation Big Vote explained that "Mr Charlie" usually meant a white cop, but it could also just mean any white guy.

But most early speakers tapped into the benign mood of atonement and spiritual regeneration which, corny as it might sound, was the reason most men gave for turning up. "The difference with 1963," one said, "is that we're dealing not with a physical problem - not with segregation - we're dealing with a mental and economic problem. We have to go away with a message of love. We have to go home to our families with love." Those listening in the crowd applauded.

Then I spoke to a couple of people. One was called Tom, the other Archie. Tom, 63, said he had been passed over for jobs all his life because of the colour of his skin. "I'm here because I don't want what happened to me to happen to any man of

colour." Was he bitter? "Yes, I'm bitter, real bitter."

It was almost a relief to find someone who didn't sound as if he'd eaten happy pills for breakfast. But then Tom ruined it by saying that he had no problem with white folks in general, just some: "You know, the best friend I ever had was a white man from Brooklyn."

As for Archie, who was 32 and wore black glasses and a raincoat, he insisted that the march was "not about colour". Come again, I said. "No, it's not about colour and it's not about Islam and it's not about Farrakhan," explained Archie, who said he was an unpublished writer of short stories about the urban experience. "We're not going to behave in a racist way and stoop to the level of those

we criticise. It's about dealing with ourselves. It's about recognising that black women have been the backbone of black men for too long. This is about saying to ourselves we must stand up on our own two feet and make our families and our communities fruitful."

Was it working? "I've never felt this electricity before. You see that guy over there? Ordinarily I would be afraid to catch his eye because he might attack me. Now, look, we smile."

Electricity was not really the word. The atmosphere was too mellow. It was a vast exercise in group therapy. Black American men were feeling good about themselves. They were bearing plenty of black footsteps, and they were not afraid.

'Nation' mirrors its leader

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

The Nation of Islam, the sect headed by the leader of yesterday's Million Man March, is in the image of Louis Farrakhan himself: conservative but militant, propounding family values with the zeal of a Dan Quayle, yet ever ready to resort to mysticism, pseudo-science and hate-dripping rhetoric to press its message of black separatism.

On the public platform, Louis Farrakhan and his lieutenants denounce Jews and Catholics, claiming that the white race was created 6,000 years ago by a black scientist called Yakub, and that AIDS and drugs are plagues engineered by whites to decimate the black race. As they do so they are flanked by bodyguards drawn from the Nation's own paramilitary guard, called the Fruit of Islam - sinister young men turned out in well-cut suits, gleaming white shirts and neat coloured bow ties.

But even Farrakhan's enemies acknowledge the effectiveness of the programmes against drugs and crime run by the Nation in depressed inner-city neighbourhoods. The Nation's historic home is New York and Harlem, the fief of Elijah Muhammad, the sect's most famous leader, who died in 1975.

Louis Farrakhan himself joined the Nation of Islam in 1955, a protégé of Malcolm X, with whom he later fell out. Malcolm X was murdered in a Harlem ballroom on 21 February 1965.

Upon Elijah Muhammad's death, leadership passed to his son, Warith Deen (Wallace) Muhammad. But he broke with Louis Farrakhan and set up his own group, Al Islam, to which the boxers Muhammad Ali and the recently-freed Mike Tyson belong.

WIN A LOTUS ELISE
with the INDEPENDENT

Few cars excite such love and loyalty as a Lotus. Launched in 1948 by the legendary Colin Chapman, the Lotus appeal is summed up by its two most famous marques - Esprit and Elan. Now a new thoroughbred joins the Lotus stable, the Elise.

Launched to acclaim at the Frankfurt Motor Show in September, this futuristic two-seater is perhaps their most exciting car ever - and we have one to give away.

Lotus describe their new model as "small, strong, ultra-light, very fast and great fun to drive". The low weight of 675kg benefits braking, handling and steering response. The adjustable driver's seat gives firm yet comfortable support and the minimalist instrumentation displays clear, immediate information.

Visually the car is stunning, the curvaceous lines set off by unique five-spoke alloy wheels. The light weight and aerodynamic shape makes the Elise a "green" machine, cutting down on fuel consumption and thus carbon dioxide emissions.

The 1795cc 4-cylinder fuel-injected engine delivers a top speed of around 120mph and the Elise, worth approximately £20,000, comes with catalytic converter, engine immobiliser, cloth trim and black vinyl hood.

Lotus are exhibiting the Elise at this month's Motor Show at London's Earls Court and to make it easier to view our prize car, there is a voucher on this page that gives £2 off the normal entry price of £9.

As well as receiving the keys to a Lotus Elise, our competition winner will also get one year's free insurance provided by Norwich Union Club Insurance. This service offers a 24-hour Clubline which, should you have an accident, connects you to a dedicated Club Incident Manager who will take immediate care of the problem.

To be in with a chance of winning our prize you must collect six differently numbered tokens from the 14 we are printing in the Independent and the Independent on Sunday. At least one token must come from the Independent on Sunday. Today we are printing Token 3 and we will print an entry form at the end of the competition.

INDEPENDENT

£2 off Adult Entry or £1 off Child/Senior Citizen Entry to the London Motor Show. This voucher entitles one person to the above discount for one day at the London Motor Show (Earls Court Exhibition Centre). Please present this voucher at the ticket office. Valid 20-29 October 1995.

THE LONDON MOTOR SHOW
EARLS COURT
19TH - 29TH
OCTOBER 1995

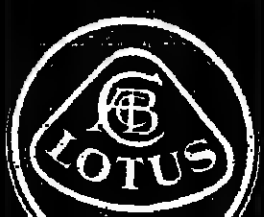
RULES

1. To enter our Lotus Elise Prize Draw you need to collect 6 differently numbered tokens, including one from the Independent on Sunday.
2. The closing date for entries is 17 November 1995. Send to: Independent/Lotus Elise Prize Draw, PO Box 203, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TY along with a completed entry form which will be printed on 20 and 28 October.
3. For previously published tokens or an entry form send an SAE to: Independent/Lotus Elise, PO Box 88, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire

- AL7 1TX. State the amount of tokens you require (only 4 per application). Please mark clearly on your envelope, Token Request or Entry Form. If you need both, please send separate SAEs. Requests must be received by first post 6 November 1995.
4. Employees and agents of Newspaper Publishing Plc or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part, neither are their relatives nor members of their families or households. Entrants must be aged 18 or over.
5. The Lotus Elise will be available in August 1996.
6. The winner must co-operate for publicity purposes if required and accept that his/her name and photograph will be published in the paper.
7. Photocopies of tokens and entry forms are not acceptable.
8. The promoter reserves the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry or competitor, nominee, or to add to, or waive any rules.
9. No correspondence will be entered into.

10. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt. The promoter will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post.
11. The competition is only open to residents of the UK and the Irish Republic. The prize will be as stated, with no cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final.
12. The year's free insurance is only available to drivers aged 25 or over and is subject to a £250 excess.
13. Promoters: Newspaper Publishing Plc; One Canada Square, London E14 5DL.

INDEPENDENT



TOKEN 3

in association with AUTOSPORT and CLASSIC

For further details on Norwich Union's Club Insurance call 0800 828647 for an information pack



INSURE GAS CENT HEAT FOR L
Enjoy full protection
From just £80
Now for £4
0990 50
first du
GAS PLANT IN U

international

Balkan turning point: Zagreb poised for assault on Eastern Slavonia □ Warring armies silence guns in Bosnia

Croat troops threaten last Serbian enclave

TONY BARBER
Europe Editor

Croat tanks and troops took up positions only 12 miles from the Serb-held enclave of eastern Slavonia yesterday in what may herald an offensive to recapture the last piece of Croatian territory in Serb hands. United Nations officials in Zagreb said it was premature to predict a Croat attack, but evidence is accumulating that President Franjo Tudjman has decided force is the best way to solve the problem of eastern Slavonia.



Tudjman: Delivering daily warnings of an offensive

At last Saturday's convention of his ruling party, the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), he said: "We will do everything to restore these areas to the constitutional and legal system of Croatia in a peaceful way, above all because we do not want fresh casualties and because every drop of Croat blood and every Croatian life is precious... But if we cannot do this, then we will use all means to which a sovereign state has the right."

The words were almost identical to those Mr Tudjman used before Operation Storm, the offensive last August in which Croat forces swept aside Serb resistance in the Krajina region. Negotiations between the Croatian government and the Serbs of east Slavonia have made little progress, with Croatia

rejecting Serb appeals for a five-year transitional period before the region's final status is settled.

In another hint that an offensive may be imminent, the Foreign Minister, Mate Granic, said last week: "We are ready for talks with Croatian Serbs from eastern Slavonia, but not for any buying of time. The deadline is firmly decided and is very close now."

Croatia has said it will allow time for negotiations up to 30 November, when the UN peace-keeping mandate in Croatia expires. But Mr Tudjman could strike before then; the peace-keepers' presence proved no obstacle to the Croatian army when it took western Slavonia in May and the Krajina in August.

Mr Tudjman and his HDZ colleagues issue daily warnings of an offensive on eastern Slavonia at rallies for Croatia's 29 October general election. The HDZ is guaranteed victory, partly because of Croatia's military successes, but also because Mr Tudjman rushed a new election law through parliament last month, tipping the scales in his party's favour.

The law gives the vote to almost 400,000 Croats abroad, most of whom are in Bosnia. Since the HDZ's Bosnian satellite party dominates Bosnian Croat politics, most Bosnian Croats seem certain to vote for Mr Tudjman's party in the Croatian election.

Another more ominous implication of treating Bosnian Croats as part of Croatia's electorate is that Mr Tudjman may be preparing the ground for the merger of Bosnian Croat territory into a greater Croatia. The new election law greatly diminishes the status of Serbs in Croatia, as it guarantees only three seats in parliament for national minorities, down from the previous 13.



Shopping development: Sanela Kelic, a Muslim, rests outside her future boutique in recently retaken Donji Vakuf

Photograph: David Bruch/AP

UN general says ceasefire is holding

ANGUS MACSWAN
Reuters

Sarajevo — General Rupert Smith, the UN Bosnia commander, was said last night to have been gained.

Col Vernon said Gen Smith "is happy that the ceasefire is holding along 80 per cent of the confrontation line... He believes the military situation on the ceasefire does not now jeopardise the overall [US envoy Richard] Holbrooke peace agreement and the proximity talks that are scheduled."

In Moscow, envoys of the Contact Group — the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — mapped out their strategy for the talks on 31 October.

According to Germany, the Moscow meeting will define Russia's role in an international peace force being put together by Nato. The Russians are refusing to contribute troops if the force is solely under Nato command.

well along the confrontation line, and that while fighting continued in the north-west, no land had been gained.

In Bosnia, Serb leaders were locked in a power struggle as the Bosnian Serb parliament, angry at battlefield losses, demanded the dismissal of generals loyal to the army commander, General Ratko Mladic. A session of parliament in the north-west town of Banja Luka accepted the resignation of the figurehead prime minister, Dusan Kozic, as a scapegoat for military defeats.

The more significant demand for the dismissal of four generals by deputies of the ruling Serb Democratic Party appeared to signal the revival of a power struggle between the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, and Gen Mladic.

The call for the removal of Generals Milan Gvero, Zdravko Tolimir, Djordje Djokic and Gruja Boric followed charges by Mr Karadzic that the military were to blame for losing 11 towns and 1,500 square miles in north-west Bosnia to government and Croat troops. Last August, Mr Karadzic tried to dismiss Gen Mladic but had to back down when other generals pledged loyalty to him.

In September, Gen Mladic's supporters accused Bosnian Serb political leaders of secretly agreeing to withdrawal from those areas which the Serbs would have to give up anyway under an international peace plan.

Claes in last effort to keep Nato job

SARAH HELM
Brussels

In a final effort to save his skin, Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, yesterday asked to address the Belgian parliament when it meets, probably on Thursday, to decide whether to send him for trial on corruption charges.

Still refusing to heed the growing calls for his resignation, Mr Claes clearly hopes that he can influence the vote in the parliament by protesting his innocence in person, disavowing any knowledge of kickbacks allegedly paid by the Agusta helicopter company to his Flemish Socialist Party when he was economics minister.

On Saturday, a parliamentary commission ruled that there was enough evidence against Mr Claes to lift his immunity from prosecution as an ex-minister. The commission's recommendation is now before parliament, which alone has the power to send a minister for trial.

At Nato headquarters yesterday, the alliance's 16 ambassadors, gathering for the first time since the sudden eruption of "Willygate", remained publicly silent about what the secretary-general should do. Privately, officials are making it clear that time has now run out for Mr Claes.

Alliance leaders are intensifying their search for a successor in the expectation that Mr Claes will be gone before the end of the week. At the same time, contenders who want to lobby for the job are beginning to emerge from the shadows.

The front-runner is Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, the former Danish foreign minister. He is believed to be pushing his candidature hard and is favoured by the US, as well as European alliance members. Hans van den Broek, EU foreign affairs commissioner, is also said to be keen on the job, but he is believed in Washington to be too closely associated with what the US regards as the EU's feeble policy towards former Yugoslavia.

DO YOU
BUY YOUR
CIGARS
IN A TIN

Send us the paperliner and we will
send you a tin containing 10 new cigars -
FREE!

To receive your free tin of 10 cigars send
your paperliner to the address below by
31st March 1996:

Free Tin Offer, PO Box 99
Burnley, Lancs, BB11 1DS

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

Address

Postcode

My usual brand of cigar is

How often do you smoke cigars?

Occasionally ☐ One pack per week ☐
Over one pack a week ☐ One pack a day ☐

Age:
18-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60+ ☐

I am a smoker aged 18 or over.

Please sign:

(Unsigned applications will be deemed invalid and returned.)

☐ Please tick if you do not wish to receive details of further offers from us.

Conditions:

1. Offer only open to UK resident smokers aged 18 years or over.
2. Only one application for one tin per smoker. No photocopies allowed.
3. Allow 28 days from receipt of your application for delivery.
4. Offer closes 31st March 1996.

Provider: Cigarette United, 100, Southgate Road, Weybridge, Surrey TW20 0EX.

(Please do not send applications to this address.)

1000000

SMOKING CAUSES HEART DISEASE
Chief Medical Officers' Warning

You're used to
successful meetings.
So are we.

مكتبة من الامم المتحدة

Poverty in rural Portugal still forces parents to set their children to work, reports Elizabeth Nash



Labour of love? Children helping out in the vineyards of the Douro valley, northern Portugal

Photograph: Piers Cavendish/Impact

Child labour thrives in wine country

Braga — Francisco Jose da Silva was only 13 when he died. The engraving on his headstone, near Braga, in Portugal's northern Minho region, reads: "Jesus called me from this world. My time had come. Destiny was to blame. Not Mr. Mora's factory."

The couple, paid for by the employer to mollify Francisco's family, is rare testimony to the widespread but hidden practice of child labour in one of the least developed corners of Europe. Statistics are hard to come by. Trade unionists in Braga reckon there could be tens of thousands, but government inspectors find fewer than 200 a year. Nearly all the 95 factories fined last year for employing children — a civil offence in Portugal — were from around Braga.

The area known as the Vale do Ave has the country's lowest wages, highest unemployment rate, and the densest proportion of women and children in Europe. A rural area famed for its *vinho verde*, in the mid-1980s the Vale do Ave experienced a boom in factories employing unskilled labour for making and finishing clothes and shoes.

Recession has thrown this precarious economy into crisis. The valley is dotted with abandoned factories, some little more than garages, and the mostly female workers are trickling back to the land. Adao Mendes, of the General Workers' Confederation in Braga, said 30,000 jobs in the area have gone in six years.

"A few years ago I had difficulty getting workers during the harvest," said Eulalia Moreno, a wine grower whose vineyard is near Braga. "They preferred to work in the factory. But now they offer to work for me for less than the legal minimum of 52,000 escudos (£260) a month."

She adds: "Two years ago I bought granite paving stones for my patio. The stones were unloaded by children, some only eight years old. Their little hands were calloused, the insides of their nostrils white with dust."

I went with her as she visited the quarry owner's house to inquire about more stone. One of the young sons glanced to the side and said the quarry had been covered with soil seven years ago and was now being farmed.

Amerigo Monteiro, of the Commercial Workers Union in Braga, a member of the National Confederation for Action on Child Labour, said: "There are no clear statistics because the activity is clandestine. As the number of cases discovered increased, the practice has been driven further underground. Government statistics say the trend is downwards, but in my opinion things have not improved."

As factories have closed, Mr Mendes said, families are increasingly doing piece-work at home, out of reach of government inspectors. "The employers take shoe or garment pieces to be stitched or finished in the family home, and collect the products at the end of the week. The parents collude in the illegal employment of their children, not only from economic necessity, but from a traditional belief that it is part of becoming an adult."

Maria Pereira da Lima, who has the sturdy beauty typical of *minhota* women, has 10 children, aged from 20 to 14 months. They live in a two-room house with cement walls in the village of Brito, near Braga. Two of her sons, Gabriel, 13,

and Joao Carlos, 12, worked in a local garment factory for two years until it closed last year.

The boys said they worked from 8.30am to 12.30pm, threading cords through the waistbands of tracksuit trousers, and earned 5,000 escudos a month. They said they liked it, and would jump into the surrounding scrubland when the inspector came round.

"I let them go to the factory," Donha Maria explained, "because they were secure there and not roaming the streets, getting into trouble. Also they were learning something useful. If they stayed at school they'd only learn English, and what's the point of that? They'll never go to England."

Her daughter, Elisabeth, 20, started in the factory at 12 as a machinist and now earns 75,000 escudos a month, which she gives to her mother. Did Donha Maria regret illegally depriving her children of education? "No. We needed the money. But Elisabeth now asks me why I didn't let her stay at school, so I promised that Maria Manuela" — an eight-year-old scrap edges forward — "would stay on, because she's too fragile for factory work."

The governing Socialists are thinking of shifting responsibility for child labour from the labour ministry to that of education. But Mr Monteiro sees no quick fix. "There won't be a solutio until families' economic situation is improved, and there is a change in a culture that sees child labour as normal and acceptable," he said.

Russia's red rising star worries West

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

Several hundred American businessmen will convene tomorrow in a Moscow hotel to listen to a man who not long ago would have been about as appealing to the average capitalist as the tax inspector. But these days few serious players in the new Russia would miss the chance to find out more about Gennady Zyuganov, the country's most powerful Communist.

Four years after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the fortunes of once-reviled Communists are rising so much so that they and their allies are expected to emerge as the strongest political group in December's parliamentary elections.

Opinion surveys place Mr Zyuganov's party in the lead, comfortably ahead of the democrats and anyone associated with the unpopular President, Boris Yeltsin. This month Communists swept the board in local elections to the central city of Volgograd. Even his political opponents admit Mr Zyuganov is doing well; few would be surprised to see him running for president when Mr Yeltsin's term expires next year.

"People are anxious to hear what he has to say, and especially what his attitude to business will be," said Sean Wood, spokesman for the American Chamber of Commerce, which is billing the party 51-year-old politician as its featured speaker at tomorrow's meeting.

Anxiety is understandable, as the record of Mr Zyuganov's party is contradictory. On one hand, he is seen as a moderate whose aides have gone to pains



Zyuganov: quotes St Paul but has a hardline past

privately to convince the West that he has no plans to reverse moves towards the free market and democracy. He occasionally quotes St Paul (not a favourite with his hardline forefathers), pointing out that religious belief is not an obstacle to party membership.

On the other hand, he was a member of the Soviet Central Committee's propaganda department and is a former board member of the banned *Den* (The Day), a hardline newspaper with a record for occasional anti-Semitism. His party, the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF), is reported still to include some unreconstructed Stalinists.

Nor do the party's policies, which have a strong nationalist flavour, appeal to democratic palates: its brochure talks wistfully of returning to the former Soviet Union, reversing privatisation and restoring price controls. Yet it has more members (it claims 550,000) than its rivals, and enjoys the advantage of a grassroots organisation — a legacy of Soviet times. Its support is strongest among the elderly, who are expected to vote in disproportionate numbers.

The prospect of a Communist resurgence last week prompted Yegor Gaidar, a leading reformer, to issue a passionate warning. Do not assume that Russian reforms are irreversible or that the Communists are benign, he said: "The party is shifting not from red to pink but from red to brown" — a reference to Mr Zyuganov's strategy of appealing to Russia's popular nationalist sentiments.

"If our Communist Party were a good, charming reformist party of a social-democratic nature," he went on, "then I would not attach any importance to the elections. But it requires enormous ignorance to confuse our Communist Party with the reformist parties of Eastern Europe."

The Communists might not be able to do much damage; the State Duma (the lower house) has limited powers. But Western diplomats admit to having no real idea what would happen if Mr Zyuganov were to become the top man in the Kremlin.

Kohl insists on a hard EU currency

TOM HENEGHAN
Reuters

Karlsruhe — Germany's post-war democracy would be in danger if the European Union produced a single currency that was unstable and inflation-prone, Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the opening session of the Christian Democrats' annual congress yesterday.

Bonn would insist on strict adherence to the tough Maastricht criteria for a single currency, he said, no matter what other member countries wanted. Mr Kohl also promised to throw all his political weight behind the European unity drive.

Delegates saw this as a heavy hint that he wanted to run for re-election in 1998, to see through the planned launch of economic and monetary union the following year. Mr Kohl, 65, has coyly declined to state his intentions.

This is a question of the very destiny of German democracy, [as we can see] from the experiences of the century now drawing to a close.

Arguing that Germany had to push for a united Europe, Mr Kohl said: "No matter what is being whispered in the corridors of power in European capitals or being said in parliaments, we are sticking to this course."

Mr Kohl, who often departs from his prepared text, left out a passage warning that Germans could turn away from their traditional pro-European stand if the EU's monetary union produced an unstable and inflation-prone currency. But delegates said his *ad hoc* warnings about threats to German democracy and Europe drifting apart if it did not follow the Maastricht timetable made his appeal just as dramatic.

Under the Maastricht treaty, EU member countries must trim their deficits to 3 per cent of gross domestic product and cut total debt to a maximum 60 per cent of GDP but there is no provision for ensuring these levels are maintained after EMU's planned start in 1999.

Sweden's would-be PM fights charges

ANNIKA SAVILL
Stockholm

Sweden's Social Democrats launched a strategy to save their prime minister-in-waiting yesterday. Mona Sahlin, defending herself against allegations of misuse of a government credit card, declared she would stay on as number two in the cabinet and would still run for the party leadership if "the party wants me to and if I want to".

Senior members of the party, reluctant to give up on the young and charismatic Ms Sahlin as Sweden's first woman prime minister, issued statements of support. Ms Sahlin then displayed all her media skills as she faced the press alone and denounced a tabloid campaign about her private finances. Asked if she would remain as Deputy Prime Minister, despite an investigation by public prosecutors, Ms Sahlin replied: "Of course. People are innocent until proven guilty."

Ms Sahlin, 36, who insists she paid back the government every krona each time she used the card, offered a passionate self-defence. "I may be careless with my life, but I'm sure as heck not careless with my politics ... and I'm sure as heck not dishonest. I fell behind on my finances in the 1980s. I did credit cards. I'm not alone in that."

She said she had been through campaigns against her



Sahlin: Still enjoys her party's backing

before, "including faeces and condoms in the mail, and yet I have loved every second of my life in politics".

She said that to succeed Ingvar Carlsson, when he retires in March, "I would need a lot of support. To me that means a vast majority of the party. But that is not enough — it also depends on what I want and what my family wants."

It also depends on prosecutors clearing her of any criminal offence. As legal opinions differ on the legality of borrowing on the government card, and other politicians may have been following the same practice, a clean bill for Ms Sahlin appears quite possible.

Why switch your current account to Alliance & Leicester?

We'll give you the answer FREE

This Binatone 2100 Answering Machine with Telephone is yours FREE when you switch your current account to Alliance & Leicester

Our free Answering Machine with Telephone offer is just one of many good reasons to switch your current account to the Alliance Account.

We also offer a complete 24 hour telephone banking service. So you can pay bills, check your balance or transfer funds whenever you want.

We even offer up to 5% credit interest gross p.a.

We're always at the end of the phone

Our friendly, efficient staff are ready to take your call around the clock so you'll never talk to a machine. And we offer the convenience of nearly 400 Alliance & Leicester branches.

We provide free banking when you're in credit and authorised overdrafts at the low monthly interest rate of just 0.78% (APR 9.12%) and no monthly fee.

And you'll receive a £100 cheque guarantee/debit* card with access to your money through 8,500 LINK cash machines.

It's simple to switch

Find out how easy it is to switch to the Alliance Account - we'll even help you transfer direct debits and standing orders. Call us free on 0500 95 95 95 or complete and return the coupon below.

*Subject to terms

0500 95 95 95

Please send me more information about the Alliance Account from Alliance & Leicester.

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms _____ Initials _____

Surname _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel. No. (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Date of birth _____

Are you an Alliance & Leicester customer? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Return to:
Alliance & Leicester
Building Society
Freeport (LS 9 6EL)
Leeds LS2 8AL

ALLIANCE LEICESTER

NIB _____

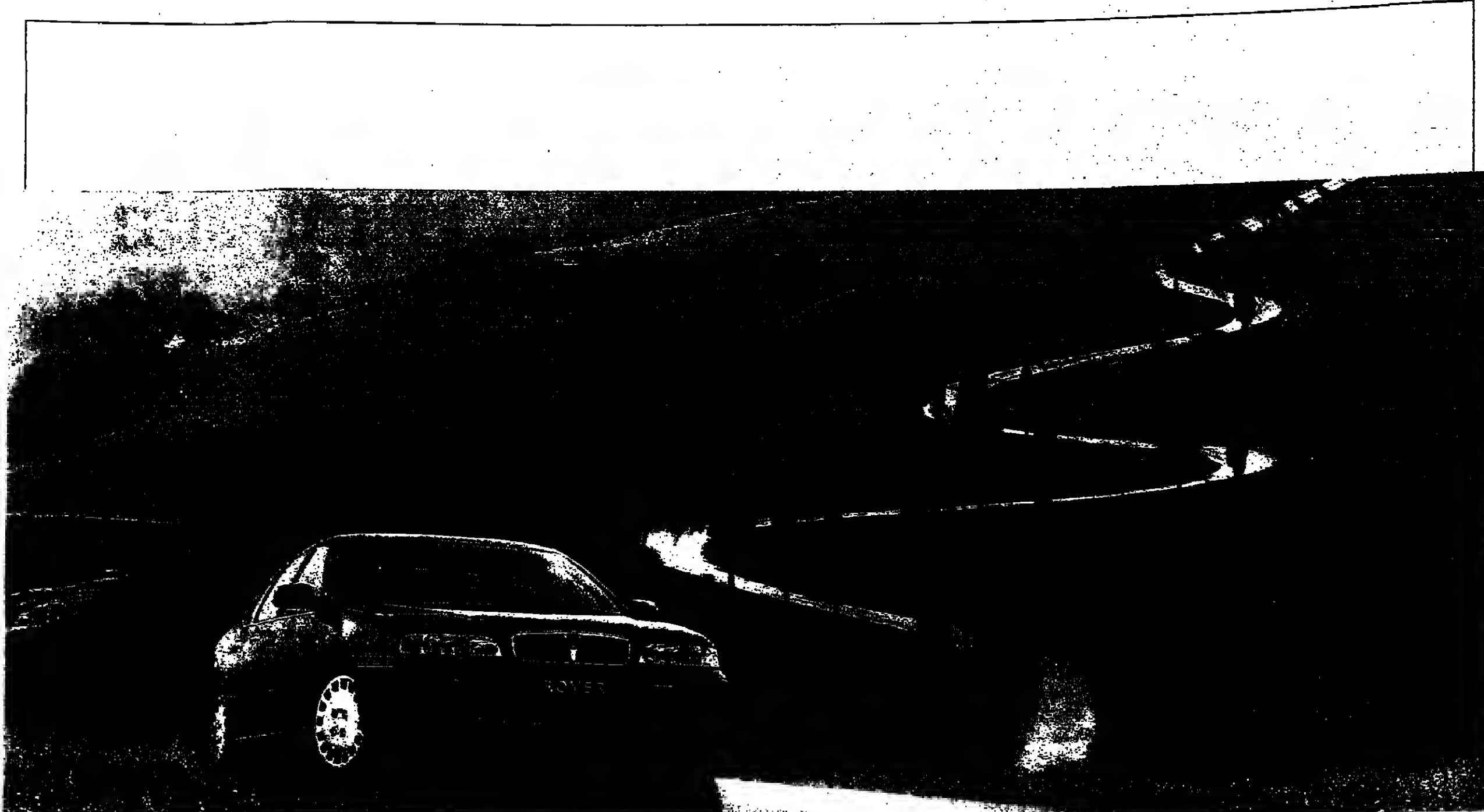
Applicants must be aged 18 or over, and agree to pay their salary/wage or at least £300 into their account each month. Applications, leaving of the £100 cheque guarantee card and overdraft facilities are subject to an appraisal of your financial position. Written quotations available on request. Interest on credit balances will be payable net of basic rate of income tax, or subject to the required certification, gross. The gross rate of interest quoted does not take account of deduction of income tax. The rate of 5% gross p.a. is payable on balances of £500 or more. Credit interest is calculated daily from the day following receipt, up to and including the day before withdrawal, except for deposits made by cheque where interest is calculated daily from the fourth banking day following receipt. Interest rates are variable. Overdrafts are repayable on demand. If you are one of the first 10,000 to open an account between 18th September and 17th November, after you fund your account with salary or credit of at least £300 and return your claim form, a voucher for a Binatone Telecard 2100 will be sent to you which is redeemable at any Argos store. A customer with an Alliance Account will be a depositor with, not a shareholder of, the Society.

Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Heritage House, 61 Southgates, Leicester, LE1 5SR.

THE DAWN CHORUS ON RADIO 3.

NOW RADIO 3 STARTS THE DAY ONE HOUR EARLIER.
JOIN ANDREW MCGREGOR AND THE ON AIR TEAM FROM 6AM. MONDAY TO FRIDAY.





*PLUS DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT.

THREE ELEGANT ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF THE ROVER 600. (ONE BEING £159* PER MONTH.)

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE.

What's our first argument?

Well, it's rather subjective, so we'll hand you over to What Car?:

"From the grille on the nose to the twin exhausts at the tail, the Rover 600 exudes class. Owning a Rover is something to boast about."

So you don't need to be an accountant to appreciate the beauty of driving a Rover 600. But it helps.

A WISE INVESTMENT.

Especially when considering the 600's class leading residual values.

A recent fleet magazine investigation concluded "All our sources put the Rover 600 at the top of the stack."

When the time comes to part company with your 600, its excellent residual values should pay off handsomely.

SELECT ADVICE.

And we've made things even more attractive with the help of Rover Select.

How does £159* a month, two years' warranty and two years' complimentary servicing strike you?"

As one motoring journalist put it "The 600 boasts looks that others can only dream of."

It'll be doubly satisfying to know you've obtained both a car *and* a package worth boasting about.

Elegant arguments indeed. But this opportunity ends on 10th December. So now's the time to arrange your test drive.

ROVER 600i	
CASH PRICE ¹	£17,311.00
DEPOSIT (36%)	£6,261.99
AMOUNT FINANCED	£11,049.91
24 MONTHLY PAYMENTS ²	£159.00
GUARANTEED MINIMUM FUTURE VALUE ³ /FINAL PAYMENT	£8,650.00
CHARGE FOR CREDIT	£1,474.84
TOTAL PAYABLE	£18,785.84

APR 7.4%

BMW ADMINISTRATION FEE OF £50 AND A SALES AGENCY FEE OF £175 ARE ADDED TO THE FIRST PAYMENT. *PROVIDED THAT THE VEHICLE HAS NOT EXCEEDED THE MILEAGE MILEAGE OF 25,000 MILES PER ANNUM AND IS IN GOOD CONDITION. THIS OFFER IS NOT AVAILABLE ON EC PURCHASE PLAN PURCHASE.

For a free test drive or a brochure phone now on
0345 186 186



ABOVE ALL, IT'S A ROVER



¹PRICE, CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS, INCLUDES COST OF DELIVERY TO DEALER, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS ROAD TAX, SUBJECT TO VEHICLE AVAILABILITY. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO ANYONE AGED 18 OR OVER, SUBJECT TO STATUS (A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED) THROUGH ROVER FINANCE LIMITED, ARON HOUSE, 415 STRATFORD ROAD, SHIRLEY, SOLIHULL, WEST MIDLANDS B90 4BL. A MEMBER OF NATWEST GROUP. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. CONTRACT HIRE IS EXCLUDED. ²PLUS SERVICING FOR 1 YEARS OR 24,000 MILES PLUS FREE SECOND YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL ROVER 600 DERIVATIVES, UP TO 30,000 MILES. CARS MUST BE PURCHASED AND REGISTERED BY 10/12/95.

مكتبة الامم

Saddam fails to win 0.04% of vote

PATRICK COCKBURN
Baghdad

A pigeon accidentally shot by a supporter of Saddam Hussein lay flapping on the ground in the courtyard of a block of flats in central Baghdad. It had mistimed its flight to coincide with the announcement that 99.96 per cent of the Iraqi people want Saddam to be their president for the next seven years. The block is largely inhabited by members of the ruling Baath party, who ran to their balconies to fire their sub-machine guns and pistols into the air in celebration. Children sang songs in praise of President Saddam and some of their parents tossed money into the air. This is not as expensive as it would have been a few years ago, since the Iraqi dinar has fallen from three to the US dollar to 2,000 today.

Throughout the referendum, in which 8 million Iraqis trooped to the polls, Saddam Hussein remained largely invisible. The pictures on Iraqi television which show him waving to enthusiastic crowds are about five years old. There is a change, however, in the way in which the presenters refer to him. When President Saddam's name is mentioned they now invariably add: "May God preserve him and protect him." Only the Prophet Mohamed traditionally receives such treatment.

Iraqis normally see their leader on the nightly news as he receives foreign dignitaries. But they are few and far between these days, and include people of dubious diplomatic significance. The only person of any notoriety to travel to Baghdad in the last few days has been Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian nationalist politician. His bizarre presence underlines Iraq's political isolation. He gave an interview to Iraqi television dressed up as an Arab sheikh and looking like an ageing Colonel Gaddafi. He saw Saddam Hussein for five hours, saying afterwards: "I talked for four of them." At the al-Rashid hotel, Mr Zhirinovskiy's bodyguard angered other guests by ordering them out of the lift



Fired up: An Iraqi man celebrating Saddam Hussein's referendum victory in the traditional manner as his wife covers the ears of their child

whenever the Russian delegation was using it.

There may have been a moment when President Saddam thought that the Gulf war coalition would break up. Russia and France would successfully oppose sanctions, Turkey would become restive about the loss of Iraqi trade. But if anything, the embargo is getting tighter. There are few trucks on the lifeline through Jordan, and Jordanian customs have got much tougher on smuggling.

At the same time, Iraq is not starving. There is malnutrition, but the government rationing system still works. The fields along the Tigris and the Euphrates are full of farmers, and there are more fruit and vegetables in the market than before sanctions. A kilo of figs costs about 18 pence but apples, which are grown beyond the Iraqi line in Kurdistan, cost sev-

en times as much. "Apples are for the rich," said one shopper.

This may explain why Iraq has rejected the UN Security Council plan for a limited sale of Iraqi crude oil under the partial control of the UN. Diplomats here argue that this shows Iraq still has the hard currency in secret foreign accounts to pay for just enough food to get by. There are few overt signs of resentment. The only one in recent weeks was a bomb under the car of a diplomat at the Russian embassy - he had gone into the embassy a few minutes earlier. Moscow used to be a firm ally of President Saddam, and although it has done little for him in the last five years, nobody in Baghdad knows why its embassy should have been singled out for attack.

Sunday's referendum proves nothing but that the government has administrative

control, but it is no closer to breaking out of the political and economic siege than it was after it invaded Kuwait in 1990. A weak Iraq suits too many interests. Neither the US, Saudi Arabia nor Kuwait wants radical change in Baghdad, even if they want a new man at the top.

Ordinary Iraqis have a sense that they are at the mercy of events over which they have no control, and most are just scraping by. Open-air markets have developed in Baghdad as people buy and sell anything from furniture to piles of rags and broken plates. This makes it a

more human city than at the height of the oil boom, but also a despairing one. After eight years of war with Iran, followed by the embargo and the Gulf war, there is very little hope left. The only real ambition of most Iraqis is to survive.

Leading article, page 18

Arafat frees his Hamas political rival

Gaza City — Yasser Arafat released a senior leader of the Muslim militant group Hamas as part of intensifying ceasefire negotiations with his political rivals. The Hamas leader, Sheikh Ahmed Bahar, had been arrested in June after a series of suicide bombings carried out by the group in Israel. The Lebanese army went on alert in south Lebanon amid fears of possible retaliation to guerrilla attacks that have killed nine Israeli soldiers since last week. General Antoine Lahd, chief of Israel's South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia ally, after talks with the Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in south Lebanon, said Lebanon would "pay the price" if anti-Israeli guerrilla attacks continue. AP

Cameroon to join the Commonwealth

Yaounde — Cameroon, the former Anglo-French territory in West Africa, took the day off yesterday to celebrate the news that it is to become the 52nd member of the Commonwealth on 1 November. President Paul Biya will join the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in New Zealand next month. Reuter

Disgraced troops invaded royal suite

Toronto — A former member of Canada's disgraced and disbanded Airborne Regiment says he and fellow commandos ransacked a high-security royal suite at a Quebec City hotel during a visit by Princess Margaret in 1980. The regiment was disbanded after disclosure of several incidents in Somalia, including the torture and killing of a Somali teenager. AP

Two more killed in Kenya ethnic riots

Nairobi — Riots erupted for a second day inside the Kibera district in the Kenyan capital and two people were killed. Two were killed on Sunday, triggering fighting between Luo and Nubians in the slum where 300,000 people live. It had political overtones as Luo dominate the Ford-Kenya opposition party while Nubians are seen as supporters of the ruling KANU party. Reuter

'Bomber' film star released on bail

New Delhi — Sanjay Dutt, an Indian film star jailed for two years in connection with 1993 explosions in Bombay that killed 317 people, was ordered to be released on bail. The Supreme Court overruled a lower court, which had denied him bail. AP

Edison's first voice recording found

West Orange, New Jersey — Curators cataloguing millions of documents and devices that Thomas Edison left behind have turned up the earliest known recording of his voice. The wax cylinder was apparently made in 1888, when Edison was 41. AP

Ciller cobbles up yet another coalition

Ankara (Reuters) — The Turkish Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller, moved towards patching together a temporary coalition government with her former social democratic partners yesterday in an attempt to stay in power until early elections. "We have arrived at a certain agreement in principle on forming a coalition," she said after meeting the Republican People's Party (RPP) leader, Deniz Baykal. Ms Ciller later met

President Suleyman Demirel for 40 minutes, but it was unclear if he had given his approval for her proposed government. Mr Demirel was to meet other party leaders last night.

On Sunday the Prime Minister lost a vote of confidence in her 10-day-old minority government, which she had put together after the collapse of her coalition. Thirteen of her True Path Party deputies opposed her. The resignation of Istanbul's

hardline police chief, Necdet Memiz, opened the door for a reconciliation between the Prime Minister and the RPP. Her refusal to sack Mr Memiz, who had publicly criticised the party's human rights minister, brought down the four-year-old coalition on 20 September.

Istanbul shares jumped by 8.5 points after Ms Ciller announced her plan. Markets had started nervously following Sunday's vote.

Ivory Coast leader stirs up his own opposition

DAVID ORR
Abidjan

Opposition activists defied an Ivory Coast government ban on street rallies yesterday, marching through the town of Gagnoa demanding a boycott of Sunday's presidential election. Barricades were erected to halt traffic, and piles of tyres and cars were set on fire, but the security forces stayed away.

The socialist-leaning Ivorian Popular Front (FPI) and the Rally of the Republicans (RDR) — which broke away from the ruling Democratic Party (PDCI) last year — want the election postponed. They argue that the government should withdraw a new electoral law whose main victim has been the former prime minister Alassane Ouattara.

President Henri Konan Bedie has said there is no question of revising the law, which requires presidential candidates to have two Ivorian parents and to have lived continuously in Ivory Coast for five years. That rules out Mr Ouattara, the choice of the RDR, on two counts: his father was born in what is now Burkina Faso, while he has been working with the International Monetary Fund in Washington since last year.

While Mr Ouattara has been keeping a low profile, the FPI leader, Laurent Gbagbo, has become increasingly vocal in his calls for protest action. Demonstrations held earlier this month were the most violent seen in Ivory Coast since independence from France in 1960. Five people were killed in clashes with the security services.

Sunday's presidential poll and legislative elections on 26 November would normally have passed off without a murmur. Politics in Ivory Coast have usually been a placid business with few of the ethnic troubles which beset other African coun-

tries. Long one of West Africa's more stable nations, its economy is based on lucrative exports of cocoa and coffee, boosted by huge injections of French aid.

For over three decades after independence, the presidency was held by the legendary Felix Houphouet-Boigny. The end of one-party rule in 1990 changed little, even though his death in 1993 was preceded by a slump as commodity prices fell. But the economy bounced back after the IMF and the World Bank engineered a 50 per cent devaluation of the French-backed Central African Franc in January last year.



Houphouet-Boigny: He still casts a shadow

Mr Bedie, the former Speaker of the National Assembly, has been acting as unelected head of state since the death of Mr Houphouet-Boigny. As his protégé, there has never been any real doubt about his electoral strength.

Why Mr Bedie should have been so insistent on the divisive electoral law is not clear. One theory is that, having been so long in the shadow of his mentor, he simply wanted to make his mark. Houphouet-Boigny's open-door policy produced a peaceful multi-cultural society, but Mr Bedie has decided to play the nationalist card. One of the most far-reaching effects

of the new law is to discriminate against the 4 million foreign Africans who make up a third of the population.

Instead of appearing strong and resolute, President Bedie has come across as heavy-handed and intolerant. His outlawing of political rallies and his refusal to entertain proposals for an independent electoral commission have further incensed the opposition. The result has been that he has given his rivals a campaign issue when they would otherwise have been hard pressed to find one.

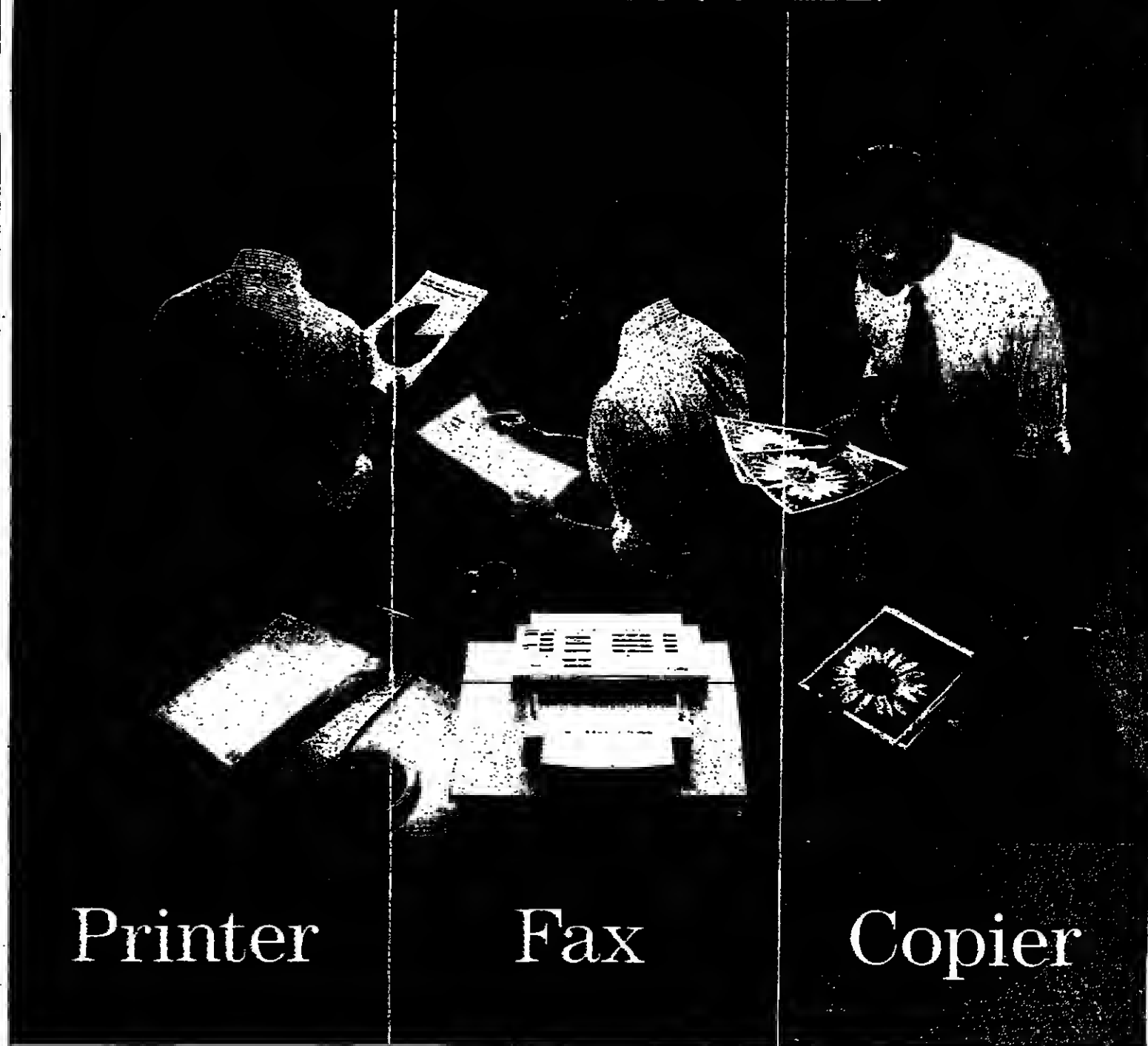
"In the absence of any real issues, the electoral code has become a symbol of everything the opposition would like to see changed," said one Western ambassador in Abidjan. "What they really want is new political blood, the end of corruption in government and a more open political dialogue."

The danger is not that Mr Bedie or his party might lose the elections. It is rather that his mandate to rule will be diminished if, in response to the opposition boycott, only a small percentage of the electorate turns out to vote.

Whatever the outcome, it is not expected that foreign investment will be affected. With an economic growth rate of 6.5 per cent expected for this year, Ivory Coast can boast the most vibrant economy in West Africa. "Productivity is up and there's room for expansion," says Pierre van den Boogaerde of the IMF in Abidjan. "Foreigners are beginning to look at this place seriously and this interest is, for the first time, going beyond the traditional French market to include the rest of Europe and the United States."

Bolstered by the robust economy, it is hard to imagine that President Bedie has that rough a ride ahead of him. But he seems to have an ability to erect his own obstacles without any prompting from the oppo-

Be in three places at once.
HP OfficeJet LX.



The new HP OfficeJet LX is designed to save you time, money and space, because it's an HP DeskJet printer, plain paper fax and copier all in one. Which means that even the smallest office can now have all the equipment you need for today's business, as it's

no bigger than a standard printer. Saving you time by being able to do all your printing, faxing and copying from your desk. And saving you money because you get all this for less than the price of the individual products.

The HP OfficeJet LX. One product. One manual. One set of supplies. A one year Express Exchange warranty. And only one place to go to find out more. Your nearest HP stockist. For more information call HP on 01344 369222.

THE NEW HP OFFICEJET LX





SUBURBANISATION
Townies squeeze locals out: 290,000 people own second homes in England; commuters live in rural areas but work in towns and cities and many city-dwellers retire to the country. Rental accommodation is scarce and house prices soar beyond the reach of locals: 10 to 50 per cent above the national average. Rural residents often have to commute to find work and housing.

DECLINE OF AGRICULTURE
The farm labour force has fallen sharply: in 1950 there were 750,000 agricultural workers, 200,000 now. The self-sufficiency policy has led to less intensive farming methods. The rural economy is now supported by manufacturing and tourism.

DECLINE OF RURAL SERVICES
Wealthy commuters and second-home owners are undermining traditional rural services. Derogation of bus services in the mid-1980s led to a reduction in evening and Sunday services. Many rural train services were discontinued in the late 1980s. Village post offices, shops and pubs are on the way, with 50 per cent of village shops closing, considering selling up in the next two years.

DISAPPEARANCE OF COUNTRYSIDE
An area the size of Greater London, Berkshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire has been built on since 1945. By 2001 11 per cent of England may be urbanised. Hedgerows are destroyed by overzealous pruning or neglect and only 13 per cent of dry-stone walls are in good condition. 50 per cent of British wetlands, home to rare species such as the bittern, have been lost to modern farming since the Second World War.

GROWTH OF RURAL POVERTY
High levels of rural unemployment and rising house prices have contributed to poverty. 18 per cent of rural (compared to 8 per cent nationally) and 54 per cent of women (compared to 47 per cent nationally) earn low wages. In 50 per cent of rural households the main breadwinner earns less than £28,000 a year. Access to jobs is difficult because of poor transport.

lie back and think of England, and you will probably think of its countryside. Gently rolling hills, a patchwork of fields, hedgerows and copses, church spires poking from clumped villages.

This warm and dreamy national emblem still survives largely intact across much of the country - but it is looking increasingly faded and ragged. The fields are bigger because many of the hedgerows have either been grubbed out or ruined through neglect. The woods are full of ageing, rotten trees because no one manages them for timber and other traditional forest products.

The village? There is a hotchpotch of modern, suburban-looking houses on its edges and for most hours of the day the place seems strangely dead. The church now holds services only every third Sunday and the bells seldom peal.

Today, after a full year of consultation, committee meetings and redraftings, the Government publishes its long-awaited White Paper on the future of rural England. In the face of the most rapid changes

in the history of the countryside, the White Paper cannot be regarded as premature.

Agriculture employs ever fewer people and yet the land is still shaped almost exclusively by farming. The number of farmers and farmworkers has fallen by 60 per cent since 1950. As a consequence the great majority of people now working in the countryside have no direct connection with the land. On average only 6 per cent of rural workers are employed in agriculture. The country workforce has become much more like that of the towns, with service sector and tourism jobs growing particularly fast.

Even more significantly, more and more people who live in the countryside don't work there. They have retired to the country or they commute increasingly long distances into towns and cities. In so doing they have pushed up house prices because planning committees ensure the supply of property is well short of demand.

While there has been a strong net outflow from city to country across most of Eng-

The great majority of people now working in the countryside have no direct connection with the land

land in the past few decades, there is a sad flow in the other direction. Young people who grow up in villages have little prospect of finding homes they can afford, so they leave for town - to find cheaper homes to rent or buy, or to go on the council's waiting list - and possibly into temporary bed and breakfast accommodation. Another great change is the decline of rural services - buses, village schools and shops. In some of the remotest parts this process is fuelled by depopulation, but elsewhere an increasingly mobile, car-borne rural

population is choosing to drive into town in search of cheaper, more varied shops and leisure pursuits.

The upshot of these changes is an increasingly polarised countryside. At one extreme there are wealthy newcomers who have no connection with the area apart from living there, and who are determined to fight off any development which would alter the landscape they have bought into at a high price.

All the other, there are the resentful rural poor. Their children have next to no hope of finding an affordable local home. And they hate the way in which any new development that might keep jobs and economic life in their villages is resisted by the arrivistes.

The other great rural battleground is between man and nature. Modern agriculture and urban development are destroying much of the wildlife and the landscapes which make us cherish the countryside in the first place. Each year between 50 and 100 square kilometres of rural England - an area equivalent to a large

town of at least 100,000 people - disappears under new buildings - mostly homes, but also factories, out-of-town shopping centres and roads.

The intensification of agriculture since the Second World War has done more damage still. Traditional farming practices allowed plenty of scope for rich and colourful flora and fauna to exist alongside man. Since the 1940s most of these semi-natural areas such as wetlands, coppice woodlands, unfertilised downland pastures and hay meadows have been ruined. They have either been damaged irreparably by neglect or vanished under the plough.

But this is the one destructive rural trend whose end may be in sight. The Government is coming round to the view that if farmers are to be heavily subsidised, it should not be to grow surplus food but to manage the countryside in a way that people want.

This change is in its infancy. The amount of subsidy that farmers receive for delivering environmental goods (such as maintaining dry stone walls or conserving salt marshes) is still

If we all fulfilled our wish to live in the countryside - in retirement or as commuters - we would ruin the place

minuscule compared to the production subsidies which encourage intensive agriculture.

The single largest manifestation of this change is the Common Agricultural Policy's set-aside regime, in which 10 per cent or more of cropland is left fallow. Set-aside does appear to be a boon to wildlife. The downside is that it has contributed to the massive decline in agricultural employment.

The battle to save the countryside's cherished landscapes and wildlife has begun. Rebuilding the social fabric of the countryside may prove

more difficult. Trends such as polarisation and suburbanisation of rural areas are part of other formidable changes of our age - rapid technological progress, jobless economic growth, escalating use of transport and telecommunications.

The challenge is to create a more vibrant rural economy in which people can live and work in the same village. This used to happen naturally when most people worked on the land, but thanks to technology that time has gone forever. Even a massive increase in organic farming would create only a few tens of thousands of jobs.

What government, local and national, has to encourage is the creation of local jobs for people who have grown up locally and want to stay in the area, along with the provision of affordable - and therefore subsidised - homes. This goes against the grain in a society which is increasingly mobile and for a government which likes to deregulate.

Yet it is starting to happen already, albeit on an inadequate scale. The Rural Housing Trust and housing associations

are now allowed to build low-cost homes for rent just outside villages, on land which private housebuilders would not be allowed to develop because of planning restrictions.

Because of this the land involved is relatively cheap, which helps to keep the cost of these village housing projects down - and the rents as well. They are allocated to local people on low incomes who would otherwise have to leave the area to get subsidised housing.

The rest of us, who live in the cities, have to be encouraged to stay there. If we all fulfilled our wish to live in the countryside - in retirement or as commuters - we would ruin the place by gobbling up open countryside under houses and causing heavy traffic pollution and congestion. There has to be continued restraint on commercial - as opposed to subsidised - house-building in the country.

Part of the salvation of England's countryside lies in improving its cities and making them places we want to live in all our lives. The countryside should be somewhere to visit - preferably by train or bus.

Diary

DAVID LISTER

The hype for the "new" Beatles double CD - with a further two double CDs to follow - is proceeding in grand style. Articles, analyses, exclusive interviews with the surviving Beatles (though not, sadly, with Jane Asher about the day she accidentally threw away the lyrics to dozens of never-to-be-heard Lennon and McCartney songs in an over-enthusiastic burst of spring cleaning in 1965). The rock magazine *Mojo* even has three different covers of the group, in the hope that in 20 years' time there will still be collectors of Beatle revivalist memorabilia. It all whets the appetite for next month's highly lucrative release of all those hitherto unissued tracks and out-takes from the Sixties.

I don't want to spoil the party, but throughout the hype an interview from long ago with the late John Lennon has been buzzing round my mind. It took place in 1971 with *Rolling Stone* magazine. In it, John was asked about those unissued tracks and out-takes. They were, he replied, never put on record because they were not up to standard. "Everything that was good enough, we used," was the all-too-honest response, a quote which curiously has not featured in any of the advance publicity. What price the hype now? Or the three double CDs?



All you need is out-takes

It's always refreshing, in a politically incorrect way, to hear a new and logically plausible argument in defence of alcohol consumption. Lunching with Allied Domecq, the international whisky and gin retailing company, I was much taken with an international comparison made by its head of corporate affairs, Tony Pratt. In France, he said, children are positively encouraged to have a glass of alcohol at home with the family as mealtime. This removes any idea of drink being a veritable symbol for youngsters. And it was significant, he added, that public order offences

were far less common in France than in Britain. What government could resist such a line of reasoning? Lower the taxes on wine and spirits and cut vandalism and juvenile crime at a stroke? And, by making dinner at home such an appealing prospect, they will also be helping to keep the family together. A vote-winning package if ever I heard one.

Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber tells me he has thoughts of building a new theatre with art gallery attached on London's South Bank, a few steps from the National. Under the cultural rationale of if you've got it, flaunt it, the art gallery would show Sir Andrew's own collection, and the theatre his musicals.

But he won't proceed until he is sure that the Millennium Commission will authorise a better link to bring people from north of the Thames. So far a new bridge and a cable car from Covent Garden have been proposed. Is any capital city in the world, I wonder, so conscious of the divide between the two banks of its river? I, like most self-respecting north Londoners, would rather emigrate than live in the deep south. I imagine most south Londoners feel the same

about setting up home in the north.

No research has been carried out on the reasons for this. But empirical evidence suggests that the north Londoners feel that south London consists of one huge, sprawling council estate where the police travel in three, while south Londoners see the north as a chattering class in continuous session.

And so, though the South Bank already has the National Theatre, National Film Theatre, Royal Festival Hall and Museum of the Moving Image, this is seen not as a thriving arts metropolis which should by now have become the focal point of London, but as a problem - because people from the other side of the river can't stomach the thought of going there unless assured of on-site parking so that they can make their getaway as the curtain falls.

The divide, both social and cultural, does not seem to exist in Paris, where the French fearlessly visit galleries and theatres - and, doubtless, encourage their children to imbibe in restaurants - on both left and right banks of the Seine.

It looks as though the Prime Minister may have taken his revenge on an increasingly belligerent press corps. Journalists arriving for the lobby briefing at No 10 Downing Street yesterday were surprised to find that for the first time they were not allowed to use the front door. From now on they have to go round the side to a new briefing room, and "for security reasons" the door is locked while they are inside. Send them round the tradesmen's entrance and if there's some bad news don't let them out of the building. It must be every prime minister's dream.

At the weekend I paid my first visit for many years to Speakers' Corner in London's Hyde Park. I was surprised to find that the said speakers have been separated from their corner, and



Free as ever: tub-thumpers' corner

are being obliged to set up their soapboxes on a pathway nearby.

However, little has changed in the subject matter on which British extroverts want to harangue their fellow citizens. Out of the six speakers, four were tub-thumping about religion (addressing one's listeners provocatively as "hypocrites" remains *de rigueur*); one was sounding off about the French and nuclear outrages; and one had an appealingly surreal approach. He spoke for nearly half an hour without actually saying anything. His thesis was that those with the least to say attract the biggest crowds, and this was borne out by the increasingly large numbers that surrounded him.

After he had played out his linguistic games, he said proudly that this is the only country in the world where one can stand on two milk crates and speak to 300 people for half an hour about nothing at all. I felt perversely proud to be British.

Readers of a nervous or sensitive disposition should read no further; but others might enjoy this sighting of a poster for a David Bowie concert on his recent American tour. Bowie was backed by two new bands, Prick and Nine Inch Nails. The magazine *Music Week* spotted one venue which had the billing confused and proudly announced: "David Bowie with Nine Inch Prick". Well, I've always said he's the biggest star. Now it's official.

Europe united on single currency

Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.



INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1986

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL
TELEPHONE 071-293 2000/071-345 2000 FAX 071-293 2435/071-345 2435

EDITOR: Ian Hargreaves

DEPUTY EDITOR: Martin Jacques • MANAGING EDITOR: Colin Hughes
SECTION TWO EDITOR: Charles Leadbeater • SATURDAY EDITOR: David Robson
EXECUTIVE NEWS EDITOR: Michael Williams • ASSISTANT EDITOR: Simon KelnerNEWSPAPER PUBLISHING PLC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Liam Neely (Chairman) • Sir Gordon Brown • Ben Bradlee • Juan Luis Ceballos • Brendan Hopkins
David Montgomery • Javier Díez de Poza • Cornel Riklin • Andreas Whitman Smith
ADVERTISING DIRECTOR: Jeremy Reed

Howard escapes justice again

Michael Howard must not be allowed to wash his hands of responsibility for the serious security flaws in Britain's prisons. Sir John Larmont's report, published yesterday, describes a long-running catalogue of failure. He speaks of sloppiness in basic precautions, of widespread drug usage among inmates at Parkhurst and of a prison service "in which morale is low with ordinary prison officers feeling devastated and unfairly treated". A home secretary who has made so much political capital out of toughening prison regimes and proclaiming such a clear personal commitment to a particular approach to prison management cannot simply absolve himself when so many things go wrong.

Sir John's report, which focuses primarily on the escape of three dangerous prisoners last January from Parkhurst, describes a shambolic security system, many weaknesses of which had been previously identified by the governor and by Judge Stephen Tumm, Chief Inspector of Prisons. The man who has paid the price is Derek Lewis, director of the Prison Service. No one who reads this report will doubt that his resignation is appropriate, despite his considerable achievements over the past three years in making jails more humane and more effective.

But what of Mr Howard? Yesterday, he was condemned by Mr Lewis, who accused him of paying insufficient attention to prisons. This public rebuke must in part reflect Mr Lewis's bitterness at being forced out. But it is a serious allegation, none the less, from a senior figure who knows the inside of Britain's jails. It also chimes with Sir John's report, which suggests that too little time is

being spent on the active management of prisons and too much on processing paper generated by the prison bureaucracy and the Home Office.

Mr Howard takes comfort in not having been explicitly blamed by Sir John. But the Larmont report calls for an examination of the relationship between agencies such as the Prison Service and the Home Office. This raises serious questions over the roles that the Home Secretary and his officials have played in a management structure that has proved ineffective in keeping high-risk prisoners behind bars.

The Teflon-coated Mr Howard will no doubt survive this latest barrage of criticism, just as he did last week's attack by the Lord Chief Justice over plans to curb remission for long-term prisoners.

The problem with Mr Howard's approach is that it is one-dimensional. He accepts most of the report's recommendations which directly bear upon issues of security, although he has been unable to persuade the Treasury to cough up for a new prison for high-risk prisoners. But he rejects any proposals that might blur his image as the hard man of the penal world, such as the provision of more television and more home leave.

This is simplistic. The provision of decent facilities in jails is not only civilised, it is part of the mechanism for controlling bored and violent people. Sir John Larmont, like the Lord Chief Justice, knows that disturbances break out when prisoners feel abused, too confined and lose hope. That produced the Strangeways riot in 1990 and the subsequent improvement of prison regimes. The irresponsible Mr Howard is turning back the clock and laying up serious trouble for his successor.

One tyrant, one vote

President Saddam Hussein of Iraq has never been a man noted for a highly developed sense of humour, but even he might be able to appreciate the ironies of the preposterous "referendum" which has just consecrated his rule by a "yes" vote of 99.96 per cent.

Here was a contest with one candidate in which many hapless voters were invited to mark their papers without the least privacy. Its outcome was celebrated with the intimidatory tattoo of Kalashnikov fire familiar at occasions of spontaneous public rejoicing in Baghdad. The result was hailed by Saddam's toadying deputy, Izzat Ibrahim, as "an immortal day in the history of Arabism and Islam".

As so often with Saddam, the outside world is left to shake its head and attempt to decipher his intentions. Could this have been an effort to persuade the more credulous or cowardly members of the United Nations Security Council that his is a legitimate government upon whose shoulders the burden of UN sanctions unjustly rests? It cannot have purchased an iota of credibility for that assumption.

It seems more likely that this was the Iraqi leader's method of sending a signal to the Security Council. Sanctions have failed, he is saying, I can still muster more than 9 million people to cast votes, my control is absolute and my resolve firm. Therefore lift sanctions, for they are hurting the Iraqi people but cannot harm me.

There is a respectable liberal argument precisely to that effect. The sufferings of the Iraqi populace deserve every ounce of compassion. The UN itself has docu-

mented middle-class penury, malnutrition among the poor, lack of medicines for the sick. Iraq, once a standard-bearer of social development, is disintegrating into a pre-industrial country. But this tragedy stems from nothing more than the calculated actions of Saddam Hussein himself.

The Iraqi regime refuses to take up an option for UN-controlled oil sales that would yield \$1bn in humanitarian funds. It spouts the propaganda of the oppressed yet it squanders scarce cash on its army and the sinister security services that preserve Saddam in power. Even more ominous, the Iraq that pleads poverty has engaged once again in a clandestine buying spree of missile components and hi-tech weapons parts. These are the actions of a government bent on violent retribution, not those of a humanitarian supplicant.

Perhaps the greatest service of Saddam's "referendum" is the helpful light it casts on the nature of his regime. When arguments are made on behalf of the Iraqi people, let it be recalled that this is a ruling clique that rules by violating the country's legal constitution. No elected parliament has existed in Iraq since 1958, and by 1968 the Baath party had abrogated all power to itself. There have been interludes of fake liberalisation in Baghdad before - 1988 to 1990 was one such period. It is all part of an intermittent effort to convert the Baathist heritage of "revolutionary legitimacy" into a governmental system able to claim allegiance from all Iraqis. And perhaps the greatest irony is that the Baath party's own title means "renaissance".

ANOTHER VIEW Derek Lewis

Unfinished prison reform

If the Prison Service is ever to realise its full potential, what it needs, as General Sir John Larmont has said, is "minimum political involvement in the day-to-day operation of the service". As Stephen Tumm, the Chief Inspector, put it: "I hope that the Prison Service can be left alone to get on with its job without too much digging and poking".

The Prison Service has had a troubled history. In the Eighties it was industrial relations and overcrowding. In 1990 it was the most serious riots in its history at Strangeways and other prisons. Most recently it has been the very serious escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst.

There has been no shortage of inquiries - May, Woolf, Lygo, Woodcock and now Larmont. As a result, the service was given agency status on 1 April 1993 and I was appointed director general. It was made clear to me that the changes required in the service were of such a fundamental nature that they would take many years to complete. What was needed was a twin-track programme: first, to achieve early and significant improvements in performance across the range - security, control, regimes and efficiency; but at the same time the foundations had to be laid for long-term changes in structure and culture and to eliminate financial waste.

Our progress has been a credit to all those who work in the service. Escapes have been cut by more than 75 per cent. The public is also better protected through an 80 per cent reduction in the number of home-leave failures. There has

been only one serious prison disturbance in the past three years and none in the past two. Prisoners are spending more time in better-quality work, training and education. We are doing more to protect the public by forcing prisoners to confront their criminal behaviour and change it. We have virtually eliminated the unacceptable practice of stopping out, stopped prisoners being held three to a cell and ceased the unacceptable use of police cells. At the same time we have accommodated a rise in the prison population from 40,000 to 52,000 and reduced the real cost to the taxpayer.

Those achievements have been severely marred by the escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst, which have undermined the fact that there is still much to do. Indeed, as I have said on many occasions, the task is not yet half done, but the service now has a momentum for change. If followed through with proper support I know the people I have worked with can deliver.

The Prison Service Board has clearly indicated its belief in a need for continuity. Sadly, that is not to be the case and I leave the service with great regret at a job well started but not completed. I hope we shall see over the coming years my vision come to pass of a service that is secure, safe, effective at rehabilitating offenders and efficient. And I hope that those who have this task will be allowed the freedom to see it through.

The writer was director general of the Prison Service from 1993 until yesterday.



Signing the contract for the big fight

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lottery funds for Neptune Hall

From Lord Rothschild
Sir: Although it is not our practice to comment publicly on applications under consideration, Colin Brown's article ("Philip wades into battle for lottery cash", 16 October) about the National Maritime Museum's application should not go unanswered. The NMM did, indeed, apply to us for a grant in January. The project is an important and complex one, involving the expenditure of some £14m. The Trustees of the National Heritage Memorial Fund have, at all times, made it clear to the NMM that although they support the Neptune Hall scheme in principle, some aspects of the application concern them.

The distributors of the National Lottery have been asked to ensure that applications for lottery funds are of a high quality, and we take this consideration very seriously. Our concerns have been based on the detailed expert advice we have sought on this project, including the views of the Royal Fine Arts Commission and a number of independent experts of undoubted standing. Concerns were also raised following a visit to the NMM by members of

our expert panel and by trustees.

We have been most careful to keep the NMM informed at every stage of the progress of the application. In conjunction with the NMM and English Heritage, we are now working towards a solution which we hope we will be in a position to announce in the near future. This solution, we believe, will address the concerns raised by our expert advisers; will ensure that this major project is at a suitable stage for a millennium celebration; and that this remarkable museum can be appreciated by visitors well into the 21st century. We hope that the revised scheme will command unequivocal support and enthusiasm from all quarters. An ambitious development of the Neptune Hall deserves nothing less.

Lastly, I would like to point out for accuracy that the grant to the Royal Opera House was made by the Arts Council and not by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Yours faithfully, LORD ROTHSCHILD, Chairman, National Heritage Memorial Fund, London, SW1 6 October

Boxing: the camaraderie and the tragedy

From Mr Anthony Potts
Sir: I was pleased to note in your editorial "Boxing: the final blow?" (16 October) that you accept that the risks of death in boxing are extremely low, and further, that whatever the risks, boxers choose to enter the ring, and accept that whatever may happen inside is a consequence of that freely made decision.

I was, however, surprised to see it stated as fact that the object of boxing is "to punch a man so hard that he can't stand up again".

Whenever I entered the ring as a boxer, my sole aim was to score more points than my opponent. Of course, this involved a risk to both of us, but I no more intended to cause physical injury to my opponent than a rugby player does when tackling the opposition hard.

The point must be made that, in both situations, something is happening in which a person's actions risk the life of another person. If we can accept injuries caused by rugby as acceptable, then we should accept that two athletes be allowed to compete in their chosen sport of boxing. If intentions are being questioned, one should compare the spirit of camaraderie between boxers with the air of dis-

like so obvious between some of our other sportsmen.

Yes, it is a tragedy that James Murray was killed by boxing, and the sport would be changed for the better if this risk wasn't there, but the risk is there, and boxers do understand this.

I was happy that I had the opportunity to compete; it is my belief that it is not my place or that of boxing's detractors to take away the right of others to do the same.

Yours faithfully, ANTHONY POTTS, London, E14 16 October

From Dr M. Jamil
Sir: If the death of the young boxer James Murray on Sunday morning helps to bring this nation to its senses, and makes us realise that boxing is merely a legalised form of manslaughter and not a sport, then maybe his death was not in vain.

It is about time the UK followed the example set by the Scandinavian countries and banned this shameful "sport". Claims that clandestine fights would become a major problem are nonsense. Cockfighting was

one of the most popular forms of entertainment in this country in years gone by before it was banned. Now that it has been banned, do we have a major problem with illicit underground cock-fights organised in this country?

It might be possible to achieve the ban on boxing more speedily if Drew Docherty, the boxer who inflicted the fatal injuries on James Murray, were to be arrested and charged with manslaughter, unlawful killing or even murder. All the promoters of this event who made a profit out of this man's death should be charged with being accessories - including the television companies who broadcast these degenerate spectacles into this nation's living rooms.

Everyone involved, the ghoul who watch this savagery, and even the owners of the Hospitality Inn in Glasgow, who rented out their hall for this event, have this young man's blood on their hands.

Yours sincerely, M. JAMIL, Department of Surgery, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Luton, Bedfordshire 16 October

A wealthy but backward society

From Mrs Ophelia Gorospe Dyer
Sir: As a Filipina married to an Englishman and living in this country, I am incensed at the treatment my countrywomen (and other foreign nationals) are receiving at the hands of Arab employers in the Gulf ("Gulf maids in slavery to a reign of terror", 12 October). I applaud Robert Fisk and the other journalists who are increasingly drawing the attention of the outside world to this problem.

Because of economic conditions in their home country, many Filipinos have no choice but to work abroad so that they can send money home to support their families. The vast majority of them are honest, hard-working and well-educated (although not a wealthy country the education system in the Philippines is good, which is one of the reasons Filipinos are employed to educate Arab chil-

dren in the Gulf). Yet, despite the fact that they are often better educated than those they work for, they are prepared to swallow their pride and work for people, many of whom subject them to physical and sexual abuse and a starvation diet, and sometimes fail to pay them the wages agreed.

I feel sorry for Arab women who are second-class citizens in their own country, and have suffered a long history of male oppression. Although they live a cosseted and bejewelled existence, many of them have no true freedom or right of self-expression. They live in a culturally backward society with primitive customs that more civilised countries find it hard to understand. Oil has been the Gulf's good fortune, but when will the moral values of a large number of its inhabitants catch up with their material blessings? Yours faithfully, OPHELIA GOROSPE DYER, Exeter, Devon

No place of refuge

From Ms Helen Bamber
Sir: We are glad to hear that the Government wants to help genuine refugees (report, 12 October). However, the announcement by Peter Lilley about the withdrawal of social security benefits for asylum seekers gives every appearance to the contrary.

Many of those seen by the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture have been refused refugee status by the Home Office but have subsequently been recognised as refugees on appeal to the courts. This process can take over a year. Under the new rules, such survivors would be left destitute while their cases are dealt with.

How safe will the supposed "safe haven" of Britain be when survivors of torture are without food and a roof over their heads? Yours faithfully, HELEN BAMBER, Director, Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, London, NW5

Open planning

From Mr Jed Griffiths
Sir: In the course of his musings on the review of local government ("Who said size was not important?" 4 October), Professor Michael Chiswick is quoted as saying: "There is a lot of low-grade corruption in district councils regarding planning decisions." Nothing else in the article throws any further light on this alarming statement.

Does Professor Chiswick have any evidence for what he says? Is he going to produce it?

Those of us who are aware that the planning process is open to public scrutiny, and to the scrutiny of the Department of the Environment and the local government ombudsman, among others, will require a good deal more than a bald statement to be convinced that corruption in planning decisions is anything but a very rare occurrence. Yours faithfully, JED GRIFFITHS, President, Royal Town Planning Institute, London, W1

Subsidy for the exploited employee

From Dr Hartley Dean
Sir: Last Wednesday (11 October), Peter Lilley duly observed the traditions of the Conservative Party Conference by raising the spectre of social security benefit fraud in order ritually to decry it. Obviously, benefit fraud cannot be a good thing, but what kind of a problem is it?

According to the British Social Attitudes survey, around a third of the population agrees that "most people on the dole are fiddling". In reality, the Social Security Benefit Agency's own best evidence is that around 5 per cent of income support claimants, and around 3 per cent of unemployment benefit claimants, can be proved to be fraudulent.

I have been involved in an Economic and Social Research Council-funded research project, ending this month, that has examined the attitudes and motivations of fraudulent benefit claimants. The findings suggest benefit fraud is certainly problematic for those involved in it, but that it is not necessarily the

kind of problem Mr Lilley paints it to be.

First, there is no evidence that the current level of benefit fraud signals any erosion of the work ethic on the part of perpetrators; nor any lack of desire to participate in conventional lifestyles. The one thing guaranteed to dissuade virtually all our respondents from fraudulent claiming would have been the opportunity of reasonably paid employment.

Second, in a high proportion of cases, low-paying employers were directly colluding with fraudulent claimants. We met young people whose only prospect of reliable employment was with the kind of employer who not only expected them to "sign on", but gave them a half day off every fortnight in order to do so.

From the Government's point of view, it might be argued, the existence of benefit fraud is functional for its labour market strategy. Allowing benefit fraud represents a covert way of

subsidising exploitative employers in a hypercapitalised labour market, but without damaging labour supply incentives.

From the claimants' point of view, benefit fraud can be a stressful and largely unrewarding activity. Most of those to whom we spoke were uncomfortable about what they did and had not planned their fraud in a particularly effective way. For them, benefit fraud was not part of any sort of lifestyle choice.

Fraudulent claimants' notions of citizenship and responsibility were often highly ambiguous. Their conceptions appeared to have been impoverished through an erosion of the popular ideals of democratic welfare citizenship. This, of course, could signal a deeper problem for society at large. It is not, however, a problem that is usefully addressed by such devices as computerised "smart cards".

Yours faithfully, HARTLEY DEAN, Reader in Social Policy, Department of Social Studies, University of Luton, Luton

Foreign aid for the British army

From Mr Ken Clark
Sir: The day after Michael Portillo's jingoistic eulogy of the British armed forces, his own department announces that they may have to plug the gaps in the infantry and the paratroopers with Nepalese mercenaries.

Why not let them take over the SAS? Nothing strikes terror like a *kukri*.

Yours, KEN CLARK, Bedford 13 October

From Mr Dennis J. Hill
Sir: In 1952, I served in Korea as a signal platoon sergeant, 1st Bn Royal Fusiliers. Your article "Gurkhas on alert to bolster Paras' depleted infantry" (14 October) caused me to remember that the infantry battalions in the Commonwealth division were

very under-strength and, in consequence, were reinforced with Koreans attached to Commonwealth units (Katcoms).

Young Republic of Korea soldiers were fully integrated into each platoon, about three to a section. They shared the dugouts, the food and the combat duties. Each Katcom was looked after by a British "buddy". They wore our regimental badge with apparent pride and such English as they acquired bore a marked cockney accent.

Surely, there are other precedents for the proposal to bolster the infantry with Nepalese. Given their loag and distinguished connection, this would not appear particularly remarkable. Having seen them in action, I believe their presence would instill an extra competitive element within the units concerned, to their mutual benefit.

Sincerely, DENNIS J. HILL, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex

Spoken English

From Ms Ruth Clarke
Sir: After reading Pam Ayres (Another View: "Parrot me my wrinkles", 13 October), I was reminded of an exquisite piece of conversation I overheard in August between two birdwatchers at Spurn Point on Humberside. First birdwatcher: "I've just seen a redshank."

Second birdwatcher: "Who told thee it were one?"

It made my day! Yours sincerely, RUTH CLARKE, Harrold, Bedfordshire

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. (Rev 0171-293 2056; e-mail letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret that we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

comment

The buck wanders round and round

Yesterday, at last, Michael Howard took some responsibility for the bad prisons news – but not enough

Where do bucks stop? Constitutionally, theoretically, the answer is clear: for mistakes made by government, ministers are ultimately answerable to Parliament. They are meant to protect their departments and their civil servants – and if things go badly wrong, to resign. In practice, though, they don't. They have progressively distanced themselves from day to day mistakes. The buck wanders on.

At one level this is sensible. The old doctrine was that, in Aneurin Bevan's phrase, "if a bedpan is dropped, the minister will hear of it". Taken seriously, that would produce deafened, overwhelmed ministers, drowning helplessly in the minutiae of administrative life as they tried to honour the rituals of parliamentary accountability. Men like Michael Howard are there to direct the broad thrust of policy, not to take the blame for every lost jailer's key.

But no one other than the most intellectually indolent defender of the Home Secretary would leave the matter there. By trying to distance the direction of policy from the operation of policy, ministers let themselves off the hook absurdly easily. Whatever goes wrong can always be blamed on the messy failures of executives, rather than on the pure thought of the politicians. They go if they are caught on a stained mattress in Chelsea. But if it's merely a catastrophic failure of public policy – forget it.

This slipperiness is made easier by the rise of a new class of blame-takers, the men and women who run, or ran, the government's executive agencies, whether they be Ros Hepple-

white, ex of the Child Support Agency, or Derek Lewis, as-from-yesterday-ex of the Prison Service. The more freedom they have to manage, independent of ministerial interference, the more blame they have to take when things go wrong. Yet they are always working within the budgets and policies laid down by ministers. They are not the masters or mistresses of their own destinies.

So when bad things happen, such as those in the prison service revealed in yesterday's damning reports by Sir John Larmont and Judge Stephen Thumim, how are the rest of us to decide who is responsible? How can blame be apportioned fairly between political policy-makers and unelected policy carrier-outs?

The previous report on the White-moor prison break-out, nearly a year ago, went to the heart of the problem when it complained about "some confusion as to the respective roles of ministers, the agency headquarters and individual prison governors". The inquiry has identified the difficulty of determining what is an operational matter and what is policy, leading to confusion as to where responsibility lies.

There is no Solomon of British public life to draw neat lines through chaos. Blame, in these circumstances, is inescapably a matter of politics, of expediency. The failures of lax prison regimes and low morale are too widespread and long-standing for there to be fingerprints, clues, and a neat, Agatha Christie-style villain. There is no one person, or group of people, who can be shown to be personally responsible for a bad Prison



ANDREW MARR
Columnist of the Year

Service culture going back many years.

What was required was not a trial, but for someone to take responsibility as a matter of honour and in order to expunge public anger. One is reminded of the *Blackadder* scene in the First World War when the officer decides that it is time for a pointless sacrifice. Only this time, it isn't pointless. If it had turned out yesterday, yet again, that no one would take the blame for failure, public cynicism would have been reinforced. This cynicism is already eating away at the reputations of many state institutions.

The question then becomes – who is the person best suited for sacrifice? Whose departure would do most to please the public? And if you put it like that the answer is obvious. Michael Howard has stuffed another 10,000 people into prison as a result of changes to sentencing policy, and his 20-second sound bite at the Tory conference last week changing the rules still further may add another 20,000. He has changed the policy which Derek Lewis was trying to implement. He has striven to get the applause while some other poor devil struggles to make it work. Then when

things get tough, he turns on the poor devil and fires him.

Had Howard sauntered to the ministerial box and resigned he would, at one bound, have done a lot to restore the reputation of himself and of John Major's government. It would have been a moment for jollity and self-congratulation, a far shrewder and more politically astute move than anything he had done at the party conference. Had he resigned, it would have confounded the pundits and left Jack Straw, who suggested that he should resign, utterly aghast. Dream on, Marx, dream on.

He took the other option and no one in the land is surprised. Howard had already tried to defend Lewis and distance him from the events at White-moor and Parkhurst, two of the most embarrassing episodes in the modern history of British prisons. For his pains he was howled down in Parliament, derided on *Newsnight* and pilloried by the newspapers. It is hardly surprising that this time he has taken the opposite course.

But by giving up on the cause of Lewis, Michael Howard has not escaped blame himself, or, probably, punishment either, it is merely that the retribution is likely to come a little later and be delivered upon him and his colleagues collectively, through a small but lethal hardening of the attitude of some millions of voters. If the Major administration is defeated at the next election, it will be impossible to look back in retrospect and determine to what extent the Home Secretary's current reputation is responsible. But then some of the most important things in politics are immeasurable.

None of this means that we should be inclined to view Mr Lewis himself as an ill-used man. From the point of view of the higher public good, he is a scrawny scapegoat than the Home Secretary, but he is better than nothing. The agency managers are responsible for their services, and "responsibility" is not a vague word. He may be shaken by what happened yesterday, but he can hardly claim to have been a wholly innocent bystander. And though he is a poor devil, he has, after all, been a highly paid poor devil.

The predictable result of all this is that even fewer people of high calibre from the private sector will wish to run public agencies, holding their jobs at the whim of ministers who are crisis-driven and unlikely to take responsibility, ever, for bad policy or incompetent legislation.

If there is an answer, it lies not in Whitehall rulebooks, or independent inquiries, but in the hands of MPs themselves, who need to reassert themselves against a mistrusted executive. If Derek Lewis had owed his job to Parliament and not to Michael Howard, then the Home Secretary would not have been judge, jury and counsel for his own defence as well. We could have had a parliamentary inquiry, apportioning blame as between the service and the minister, the operatives and the policy-maker, on behalf of their constituents and paymasters, and deciding the penalty.

This may seem Utopian, but some earlier generations of parliamentarians wouldn't have thought it so. Until then, all we have left are our wry smiles and the distant rumble of wandering bucks.

Many a proverb makes no sense

Here is a thought for the day: "The perversity of nature is best illustrated by the fact that, when exposed to the same atmosphere, bread will go hard and crackers will go soft."

It took me several minutes hard thought before I stumbled on the fallacy in this idea, but even after spotting the fallacy I still like it. It comes from Paul Dickson's *The New Official Rules*, the great guide to life that I referred to yesterday and which has a deeper purpose than just to amuse, if there can be a deeper purpose than that.

Ostensibly Dickson was just collecting a bunch of mock-scientific rules about life of which some are mildly pointless ("A crowded lift smells worst to the smallest occupant"), some sound meaningful but aren't ("A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg"), and some are brilliant ("The nice thing about being a celebrity is that when you bore people, they think it is their fault" – a quote from, of all people, Henry Kissinger); but Dickson's purpose is not just frivolous. He is trying to codify human life and work out a pattern in the crazy paving of our behaviour.

Nothing new about this. It was first done thousands of years ago when people started inventing or distilling proverbs. Human behaviour is an illogical thing, so you can't frame scientific laws to describe it or measure it; what you can do is work out a set of rough and ready proverbs to describe human habits.

It wasn't long before someone noticed that for every proverb saying one thing there is another saying the opposite – "Many hands make light work" and "Too many cooks spoil the broth", etc. – but this doesn't mean that either of them is wrong. It merely means that human behaviour is so contradictory that you have to be self-contradictory to describe it.

The trouble is, though, that people gave up making up proverbs a long time ago, as though we now knew all there was to know about the human condition. From time to time we seem to be aware of this, as when people started producing slogans in the Second World War and these took on the form of proverbs (eg "Careless talk costs lives" or, in the American version, "A slip of the lip can sink a ship").

In the late 1950s *Mad* magazine decided to update some of the best known proverbs, and as a teenager I thought these updates were hilarious. Some of them still work, such as "Fools rush in and get the best seats" and "Rome wasn't built in a day – it just looks that way", while there is a pleasing quality about "A bird in the hand makes it difficult to blow the nose".

There are also remarks tossed off by writers occasionally that have the quality of proverbs and do sometimes work their way into the anthologies, such as Alphonse Allais's "What's the point of getting your hair cut? It only grows again" and Nelson Algren's "Never play cards with a man called Doc, eat at a place called Mom's or lie down with a woman who's got worse troubles than you", but Dickson's is the only serious attempt I know of to make a large enough collection of these modern rules, proverbs, maxims, saws, tenets, whatever you like to call them, to masquerade as a guide to life.

Some of them are universally applicable, such as "When you move something to a more logical place, you can only remember where it used to be and your decision to move it" and "Troublesome correspondence that is postponed long enough will eventually become irrelevant".



MILES KINGTON

van". "If at first you do succeed, try to hide your astonishment" is generally useful. "You always find something in the last place you look" is not useful, but it's still a nice idea. Some are far from universally applicable. I remember in the earlier editions of the book there was a remark from Robert Morley, the actor, to the effect that "You can never be alone while eating pasta". It has now vanished from the book. I wonder why. Is it too introspective to appeal to Americans? Did the Italian food industry object? Did the Mafia object?

The rule of life concerning Dudley Moore, on the other hand, has stayed in. This is a new one to me, and applies very well to Moore though it would apply equally well to many another performer. It defines the five stages in Hollywood stardom as follows: 1. Who's Dudley Moore? 2. Get me a Dudley Moore type. 4. Get me a young Dudley Moore. 5. Who's Dudley Moore?

I hope you feel uplifted and improved by this visit to Paul Dickson's world of rules. If not, I won't be surprised. As it says somewhere in the great book: "A public lecture is the best way in which a speaker can transfer the information in his notes to the notebooks of his audience without it passing through either of their heads."

A recipe book to beat all records; but where's the fun in foolproof cooking? asks Rose Shepherd

Delia runs wild in the bookshop

Even without the price cuts – £5 off at Sainsbury's and WH Smith – you can bet that *Delia Smith's Winter Collection* would be walking off the shelves, it would be selling like ... well, hotcakes. As it is, boosted by prominent displays and generous discounts, the book is breaking publishing records: it has sold more than 500,000 copies in its first week.

In half a million British households, as the nights draw in, people will presumably be sitting down to Tuscan White Bean Soup with Fried Shallots and Pancetta, they'll be tucking into Red Onion Thyme Buns, calling for more of the Spiced Lambusco Jellies with Brandy Cream and Frosted Black Grapes.

Delia Smith is a publishing phenomenon whose books, according to the latest fly-leaf blurb, have sold more than five million copies. As of now, make that 5.5 million. She is Britain's best-known cook, as influential as was Mrs Beaton in her time.

She queens the pitch for private caterers who must constantly extend their repertoire: where is the kudos, frankly, in serving Roast Duck with Sour Cherry Sauce, when the making of it is, to Delia devotees, a mere bagatelle, and when dried sour cherries may be had from the supermarket? She is a tremendous force for good, magnanimous in her praise for lesser – or less famous – cooks. The public is on chummy first-name terms with her ("Shall we do Delia's stuffed red peppers for a starter?" I recently heard one friend ask her partner). Her recipes are sound: good results are almost guaranteed. She is accessible to beginners, and a favourite with more experienced kitchen hands.

She sells as well in the specialist London shop Books for Cooks, according to the manager, Rosie Kindersley, as she does in the high street chains (and you can't say that for all television cookbooks – you can't say it, for instance, of that crafty devil Michael Barry). Delia is, indeed, an all-round good egg, a consummate professional. Yet one suspects her popularity lies, at least partly, elsewhere.

Despite her joyless presentation – well, how often do you see her smile? – she offers treats to turn the head, offers cakes "to die for", encourages us to be "a bit indulgent on the chocolate front", promises warming soups and comforting stews; she appeals to something childish and greedy and needy in us.

She has her own peculiarly formal vocabulary and an achingly prosaic approach. "Ever since I was a small child," she writes, "I have felt a sense of magic in the changing seasons." And: "Winter has every bit as much charm as the other seasons for me: the dazzling splendour of autumnal colours and Keats [sic] as yet unmatched description

of mist and mellow fruitfulness, the stark emptiness of bare branches against the Winter skies, and always the very special pale Winter light."

Unoriginal thinking. Yet it works. It strikes a chord. She makes us hungry after not just "the roast beef of old England" but old England itself – at the same time persuading us that, in her thatched Suffolk home at least, that mythic England survives.

Above all, she is so awesomely efficient and so didactic. She tells us not just how to make a Chocolate Mascarpone Cheesecake, but, between the lines, how to live our lives. "If you are watching your waistline you can skip this chapter or alternatively do what I do: just cook one of them a week, on Sundays!"

Or: "Although batch-baking might be ruled out ... you can still take just one free Saturday afternoon, closet yourself in the kitchen and immerse yourself in some very rewarding home baking ... Put on some music, listen to the radio, or just be silent with your thoughts."

It's no surprise to learn that she is a devout Catholic. A friend, browsing in a second-hand shop recently, picked up her book *Feasts for Advent* and was surprised to find that he'd



Photograph: BBC

bought not a cookery book but recipes for better living, comfort food for the mind. She told the *Daily Mail*: "I think that in the whole of God's creation, part of his plan is to help people with their cooking and I'm just one little bit of that whole. But I'm not a good-looking or a holy Joe. I still have the same weaknesses as everybody else."

Her God-given gift, then, is to help us with the cooking. Want to put up Sunday lunch for eight? Roast beef and all the trimmings? Delia will guide you. She will talk you through the timing, from 9.30am, when you pop the sirloin in the oven, till 12.20pm when the Yorkshire pud goes in, so that you and your companions can sit down at the dot of one o'clock.

A dinner party chez Delia would be a seamless presentation. No "we'll take pot luck", no catch-as-catch-can. You'd be assured of a proper pudding. The washing up, meanwhile, would take care of itself.

There is something about her that makes you want to abdicate responsibility: to have her tell you firmly to go wash your hands, that reading in poor light will spoil your eyes, and that it's time for bed. Big sister, one comes to feel, knows best.

There is, with this woman, none of the danger that you have with, for instance, Keith Floyd. No one is going to get drunk and abusive, no one will set fire to the steaks or to themselves. Nor is she remotely like the celebrity television chefs, such as Gary Rhodes or Rick Stein: she is pre-eminently domestic.

Many of her recipes are exotic, but they are passed through the filter of her Englishness, becoming in the process just like mother makes. She is doing more than anyone to demystify foreign cuisines – which is fine if you don't relish the mystique. In Delia's capable hands, Libyan Soup with Couscous comes to seem as homey as one presumes it is in Libya itself. There is no escapism here, no appeal to the senses, other than to a kind of atavistic love of hearth and home and England and St George. Even in her summer collection, she does not trade on images of luscious figs on marble tabletops on sun-drenched Tuscan terraces, or of the vine-clad hills of Provence.

She is married to Michael Wynn Jones, a "writer and editor", as it says in her potted biography. That is to say, he is the editor of Sainsbury's *The Magazine*. Delia Smith is its food editor, but for me she is more than that: she is Sainsbury's – she is that supermarket made flesh. Which is to say, upmarket but not that upmarket, adventurous but not impetuous or wild. She is the reason we have Fontina in our fridges, shrimp paste and dried porcini in our store cupboards. Sainsbury's just happens to be where many of us shop.

The result can be curiously dispiriting. Sun-dried tomatoes become ubiquitous, galangal and kaffir lime leaves commonplace. "Shopping your way round Sainsbury's," as Mr Delia Smith wrote in preface to last month's issue of *The Magazine*, "is like shopping your way around the world, but under one roof." Well, precisely. And there's no big adventure in that.

And where is the fun in foolproof cooking? The excitement is all in the danger – and failure a price worth paying. I can't feel feeling I'd warn to Delia more if she got sloshed on the cooking sherry, or if her Linguini with Mussels and Walnut Parsley Pesto were just once in a while to go soggy.

Generation Why



by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

OUR AIR CON IS NO CON.



IN THE ESPACE RT ALIZÉ IT'S STANDARD, SO YOU DON'T PAY ANY EXTRA. THE ESPACE RT ALIZÉ FROM JUST £18,380. DRIVE AN ORIGINAL DRIVE AN ESPACE. TELEPHONE 0800 52 51 50.

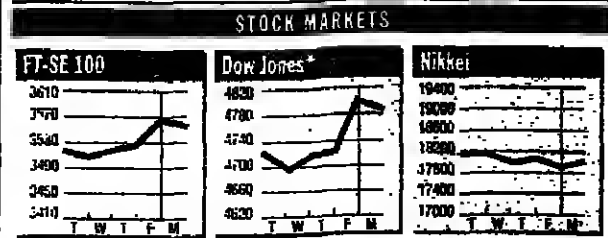


*Excludes transport tax and delivery charges of £295.75 which covers delivery to the dealer, number plates and security system fitting. The Government first year tax concession and other grants of income tax relief are available on the purchase of the car. The car is shown in the advertisement and the dealer is not responsible for the car being shown in the advertisement. The car is shown in the advertisement and the dealer is not responsible for the car being shown in the advertisement. The car is shown in the advertisement and the dealer is not responsible for the car being shown in the advertisement.

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171 293 2543 fax 0171 293 2998

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

MARKET SUMMARY



Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	12 Mth High	12 Mth Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	3557.3	-10.7	-0.3	3570.8	2943.4	4.0
FTSE 250	3939.0	-6.3	-0.2	3991.3	3300.9	3.5
FTSE 350	1771.3	-4.7	-0.3	1778.3	1477.0	3.8
FT Small Cap	1964.1	-0.6	-0.0	1983.1	1678.8	3.3
FT All-Share	1749.7	-4.4	-0.3	1757.6	1465.2	3.8
New York	4789.1	-4.7	-0.1	4801.8	3874.6	2.4
Tokyo	18016.4	+135.6	+0.8	18822.4	14485.4	0.8
Hong Kong	10009.3	+125.5	+1.3	10009.3	6967.9	3.2
Frankfurt	2191.4	-5.4	-0.3	2217.0	1911.0	2.0
Paris	1790.5	-26.5	-1.5	2017.3	1721.8	3.8
Milan	9336.0	-207.0	-2.2	10911.0	9265.0	2.1

*New Jones at 1500 hours, Dow Jones graph at 1330 hours

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

FT-SE 350 companies (excluding investment trusts)				Falls			
Rises				Falls			
	Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change		Price(p)	Change(p)	%Change
Burlord	127.5	7.5	6.3	Lloyds Chemists	228	17	8.9
Blackch	173	20	4.4	Unichem	264	11	4.0
DPS Farmaco	240	14	4.2	Lucas Industries	196	8	3.9
Barclay Bus Sys	579	19	3.4	British Gas	243	9	3.8
Coca Brothers	319	9	2.9	Eurotunnel Units	92	3	3.2

INTEREST RATES

Short sterling*		UK medium gilt		US long bond	
Rate	Change	Rate	Change	Rate	Change
6.00	0.00	6.25	0.00	7.25	0.00
6.50	0.00	6.75	0.00	7.75	0.00
7.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	8.00	0.00
7.50	0.00	7.25	0.00	8.25	0.00
8.00	0.00	7.50	0.00	8.50	0.00
8.50	0.00	7.75	0.00	8.75	0.00
9.00	0.00	8.00	0.00	9.00	0.00
9.50	0.00	8.25	0.00	9.25	0.00
10.00	0.00	8.50	0.00	9.50	0.00

*UK Treasury bills: 91 days, 182 days, 364 days, 540 days, 730 days, 1095 days, 1826 days, 2700 days, 3540 days, 4395 days, 5250 days, 6105 days, 6960 days, 7815 days, 8670 days, 9525 days, 10380 days, 11235 days, 12090 days, 12945 days, 13800 days, 14655 days, 15510 days, 16365 days, 17220 days, 18075 days, 18930 days, 19785 days, 20640 days, 21495 days, 22350 days, 23205 days, 24060 days, 24915 days, 25770 days, 26625 days, 27480 days, 28335 days, 29190 days, 30045 days, 30900 days, 31755 days, 32610 days, 33465 days, 34320 days, 35175 days, 36030 days, 36885 days, 37740 days, 38595 days, 39450 days, 40305 days, 41160 days, 42015 days, 42870 days, 43725 days, 44580 days, 45435 days, 46290 days, 47145 days, 48000 days, 48855 days, 49710 days, 50565 days, 51420 days, 52275 days, 53130 days, 53985 days, 54840 days, 55695 days, 56550 days, 57405 days, 58260 days, 59115 days, 59970 days, 60825 days, 61680 days, 62535 days, 63390 days, 64245 days, 65100 days, 65955 days, 66810 days, 67665 days, 68520 days, 69375 days, 70230 days, 71085 days, 71940 days, 72795 days, 73650 days, 74505 days, 75360 days, 76215 days, 77070 days, 77925 days, 78780 days, 79635 days, 80490 days, 81345 days, 82200 days, 83055 days, 83910 days, 84765 days, 85620 days, 86475 days, 87330 days, 88185 days, 89040 days, 89895 days, 90750 days, 91605 days, 92460 days, 93315 days, 94170 days, 95025 days, 95880 days, 96735 days, 97590 days, 98445 days, 99300 days, 100155 days, 101010 days, 101865 days, 102720 days, 103575 days, 104430 days, 105285 days, 106140 days, 107000 days, 107855 days, 108710 days, 109565 days, 110420 days, 111275 days, 112130 days, 112985 days, 113840 days, 114695 days, 115550 days, 116405 days, 117260 days, 118115 days, 118970 days, 119825 days, 120680 days, 121535 days, 122390 days, 123245 days, 124100 days, 124955 days, 125810 days, 126665 days, 127520 days, 128375 days, 129230 days, 130085 days, 130940 days, 131795 days, 132650 days, 133505 days, 134360 days, 135215 days, 136070 days, 136925 days, 137780 days, 138635 days, 139490 days, 140345 days, 141200 days, 142055 days, 142910 days, 143765 days, 144620 days, 145475 days, 146330 days, 147185 days, 148040 days, 148895 days, 149750 days, 150605 days, 151460 days, 152315 days, 153170 days, 154025 days, 154880 days, 155735 days, 156590 days, 157445 days, 158300 days, 159155 days, 160010 days, 160865 days, 161720 days, 162575 days, 163430 days, 164285 days, 165140 days, 166000 days, 166855 days, 167710 days, 168565 days, 169420 days, 170275 days, 171130 days, 171985 days, 172840 days, 173695 days, 174550 days, 175405 days, 176260 days, 177115 days, 177970 days, 178825 days, 179680 days, 180535 days, 181390 days, 182245 days, 183100 days, 183955 days, 184810 days, 185665 days, 186520 days, 187375 days, 188230 days, 189085 days, 189940 days, 190795 days, 191650 days, 192505 days, 193360 days, 194215 days, 195070 days, 195925 days, 196780 days, 197635 days, 198490 days, 199345 days, 200200 days, 201055 days, 201910 days, 202765 days, 203620 days, 204475 days, 205330 days, 206185 days, 207040 days, 207895 days, 208750 days, 209605 days, 210460 days, 211315 days, 212170 days, 213025 days, 213880 days, 214735 days, 215590 days, 216445 days, 217300 days, 218155 days, 219010 days, 219865 days, 220720 days, 221575 days, 222430 days, 223285 days, 224140 days, 225000 days, 225855 days, 226710 days, 227565 days, 228420 days, 229275 days, 230130 days, 230985 days, 231840 days, 232695 days, 233550 days, 234405 days, 235260 days, 236115 days, 236970 days, 237825 days, 238680 days, 239535 days, 240390 days, 241245 days, 242100 days, 242955 days, 243810 days, 244665 days, 245520 days, 246375 days, 247230 days, 248085 days, 248940 days, 249795 days, 250650 days, 251505 days, 252360 days, 253215 days, 254070 days, 254925 days, 255780 days, 256635 days, 257490 days, 258345 days, 259200 days, 260055 days, 260910 days, 261765 days, 262620 days, 263475 days, 264330 days, 265185 days, 266040 days, 266895 days, 267750 days, 268605 days, 269460 days, 270315 days, 271170 days, 272025 days, 272880 days, 273735 days, 274590 days, 275445 days, 276300 days, 277155 days, 278010 days, 278865 days, 279720 days, 280575 days, 281430 days, 282285 days, 283140 days, 284000 days, 284855 days, 285710 days, 286565 days, 287420 days, 288275 days, 289130 days, 290000 days, 290855 days, 291710 days, 292565 days, 293420 days, 294275 days, 295130 days, 295985 days, 296840 days, 297695 days, 298550 days, 299405 days, 300260 days, 301115 days, 301970 days, 302825 days, 303680 days, 304535 days, 305390 days, 306245 days, 307100 days, 307955 days, 308810 days, 309665 days, 310520 days, 311375 days, 312230 days, 313085 days, 313940 days, 314795 days, 315650 days, 316505 days, 317360 days, 318215 days, 319070 days, 319925 days, 320780 days, 321635 days, 322490 days, 323345 days, 324200 days, 325055 days, 325910 days, 326765 days, 327620 days, 328475 days, 329330 days, 330185 days, 331040 days, 331895 days, 332750 days, 333605 days, 334460 days, 335315 days, 336170 days, 337025 days, 337880 days, 338735 days, 339590 days, 340445 days, 341300 days, 342155 days, 343010 days, 343865 days, 344720 days, 345575 days, 346430 days, 347285 days, 348140 days, 349000 days, 349855 days, 350710 days, 351565 days, 352420 days, 353275 days, 354130 days, 354985 days, 355840 days, 356695 days, 357550 days, 358405 days, 359260 days, 360115 days, 360970 days, 361825 days, 362680 days, 363535 days, 364390 days, 365245 days, 366100 days, 366955 days, 367810 days, 368665 days, 369520 days, 370375 days, 371230 days, 372085 days, 372940 days, 373795 days, 374650 days, 375505 days, 376360 days, 377215 days, 378070 days, 378925 days, 379780 days, 380635 days, 381490 days, 382345 days, 383200 days, 384055 days, 384910 days, 385765 days, 386620 days, 387475 days, 388330 days, 389185 days, 390040 days, 390895 days, 391750 days, 392605 days, 393460 days, 394315 days, 395170 days, 396025 days, 396880 days, 397735 days, 398590 days, 399445 days, 400300 days, 401155 days, 402010 days, 402865 days, 403720 days, 404575 days, 405430 days, 406285 days, 407140 days, 408000 days, 408855 days, 409710 days, 410565 days, 411420 days, 412275 days, 413130 days, 413985 days, 414840 days, 415695 days, 416550 days, 417405 days, 418260 days, 419115 days, 420000 days, 420855 days, 421710 days, 422565 days, 423420 days, 424275 days, 425130 days, 425985 days, 426840 days, 427695 days, 428550 days, 429405 days, 430260 days, 431115 days, 431970 days, 432825 days, 433680 days, 434535 days, 435390 days, 436245 days, 437100 days, 437955 days, 438810 days, 439665 days, 440520 days, 441375 days, 442230 days, 443085 days, 443940 days, 444795 days, 445650 days, 446505 days, 447360 days, 448215 days, 449070 days, 449925 days, 450780 days, 451635 days, 452490 days, 453345 days, 454200 days, 455055 days, 455910 days, 456765 days, 457620 days, 458475 days, 459330 days, 460185 days, 461040 days, 461895 days, 462750 days, 463605 days, 464460 days, 465315 days, 466170 days, 467025 days, 467880 days, 468735 days, 469590 days, 470445 days, 471300 days, 472155 days, 473010 days, 473865 days, 474720 days, 475575 days, 476430 days, 477285 days, 478140 days, 479000 days, 479855 days, 480710 days, 481565 days, 482420 days, 483275 days, 484130 days, 485000 days, 485855 days, 486710 days, 487565 days, 488420 days, 489275 days, 490130 days, 490985 days, 491840 days, 492695 days, 493550 days, 494405 days, 495260 days, 496115 days, 496970 days, 497825 days, 498680 days, 499535 days, 500390 days, 501245 days, 502100 days, 502955 days, 503810 days, 504665 days, 505520 days, 506375 days, 507230 days, 508085 days, 508940 days, 509795 days, 510650 days, 511505 days, 512360 days, 513215 days, 514070 days, 514925 days, 515780 days, 516635 days, 517490 days, 518345 days, 519200 days, 520055 days, 520910 days, 521765 days, 522620 days, 523475 days, 524330 days, 525185 days, 526040 days, 526895 days, 527750 days, 528605 days, 529460 days, 530315 days, 531170 days, 532025 days, 532880 days, 533735 days, 534590 days, 535445 days, 536300 days, 537155 days, 538010 days, 538865 days, 539720 days, 540575 days, 541430 days, 542285 days, 543140 days, 544000 days, 544855 days, 545710 days, 546565 days, 547420 days, 548275 days, 549130 days, 550000 days, 550855 days, 551710 days, 552565 days, 553420 days, 554275 days, 555130 days, 555985 days, 556840 days, 557695 days, 558550 days, 559405 days, 560260 days, 561115 days, 561970 days, 562825 days, 563680 days, 564535 days, 565390 days, 566245 days, 567100 days, 567955 days, 568810 days, 569665 days, 570520 days, 571375 days, 572230 days, 573085 days, 573940 days, 574795 days, 575650 days, 576505 days, 577360 days, 578215 days, 579070 days, 579925 days, 580780 days, 581635 days, 582490 days, 583345 days, 584200 days, 585055 days, 585910 days, 586765 days, 587620 days, 588475 days, 589330 days, 590185 days, 591040 days, 591895 days, 592750 days, 593605 days, 594460 days, 595315 days, 596170 days, 597025 days, 597880 days, 598735 days, 599590 days, 600445 days, 601300 days, 602155 days, 603010 days, 603865 days, 604720 days, 605575 days, 606430 days, 607285 days, 608140 days, 609000 days, 609855 days, 610710 days, 611565 days, 612420 days, 613275 days, 614130 days, 615000 days, 615855 days, 616710 days, 617565 days, 618420 days, 619275 days, 620130 days, 620985 days, 621840 days, 622695 days, 623550 days, 624405 days, 625260 days, 626115 days, 626970 days, 627825 days, 628680 days, 629535 days, 630390 days, 631245 days, 632100 days, 632955 days, 633810 days, 634665 days, 635520 days, 636375 days, 637230 days, 638085 days, 638940 days, 639795 days, 640650 days, 641505 days, 642360 days, 643215 days, 644070 days, 644925 days, 645780 days, 646635 days, 647490 days, 648345 days, 649200 days, 650055 days, 650910 days, 651765 days, 652620 days, 653475 days, 654330 days, 655185 days, 656040 days, 656895 days, 657750 days, 658605 days, 659460 days, 660315 days, 661170 days, 662025 days, 662880 days, 663735 days, 664590 days, 665445 days, 666300 days, 667155 days, 668010 days, 668865 days, 669720 days, 670575 days, 671430 days, 672285 days, 673140 days, 674000 days, 674855 days, 675710 days, 676565 days, 677420 days, 678275 days, 679130 days, 680000 days, 680855 days, 681710 days, 682565 days, 683420 days, 684275 days, 685130 days, 685985 days, 686840 days, 687695 days, 688550 days, 689405 days, 690260 days, 691115 days, 691970 days, 692825 days, 693680 days, 694535 days, 695390 days, 696245 days, 697100 days, 697955 days, 698810 days, 699665 days, 700520 days, 701375 days, 702230 days, 703085 days, 703940 days, 704795 days, 705650 days, 706505 days, 707360 days, 708215 days, 709070 days, 709925 days, 710780 days, 711635 days, 712490 days, 713345 days, 714200 days, 715055 days, 715910 days, 716765 days, 717620 days, 718475 days, 719330 days, 720185 days, 721040 days, 721895 days, 722750 days, 723605 days, 724460 days, 725315 days, 726170 days, 727025 days, 727880 days, 728735 days, 729590 days, 730445 days, 731300 days, 732155 days, 733010 days, 733865 days, 734720 days, 735575 days, 736430 days, 737285 days, 738140 days, 739000 days, 739855 days, 740710 days, 741565 days, 742420 days, 743275 days, 744130 days, 745000 days, 745855 days, 746710 days, 747565 days, 748420 days, 749275 days, 750130 days, 750985 days, 751840 days, 752695 days, 753550 days, 754405 days, 755260 days, 756115 days, 756970 days, 757825 days, 758680 days, 759535 days, 760390 days, 761245 days, 762100 days, 762955 days, 763810 days, 764665 days, 765520 days, 766375 days, 767230 days, 768085 days, 768940 days, 769795 days, 770650 days, 771505 days, 772360 days, 773215 days, 774070 days, 774925 days, 775780 days, 776635 days, 777490 days, 778345 days, 779200 days, 780055 days, 780910 days, 781765 days, 782620 days, 783475 days, 784330 days, 785185 days, 786040 days, 786895 days, 787750 days, 788605 days, 789460 days, 790315 days, 791170 days, 792025 days, 792880 days, 793735 days, 794590 days, 795445 days, 796300 days, 797155 days, 798010 days, 798865 days, 799720 days, 800575 days, 801430 days, 802285 days, 803140 days, 804000 days, 804855 days, 805710 days, 806565 days, 807420 days, 808275 days, 809130 days, 810000 days, 810855 days, 811710 days, 812565 days, 813420 days, 814275 days, 815130 days, 815985 days, 816840 days, 817695 days, 818550 days, 819405 days, 820260 days, 821115 days, 821970 days, 822825 days, 823680 days, 824535 days, 825390 days, 826245 days, 827100 days, 827955 days, 828810 days, 829665 days, 830520 days, 831375 days, 832230 days, 833085 days, 833940 days, 834795 days, 835650 days, 836505 days, 837360 days, 838215 days, 839070 days, 839925 days, 840780 days, 841635 days, 842490 days, 843345 days, 844200 days, 845055 days, 845910 days, 846765 days, 847620 days, 848475 days, 849330 days, 850185 days, 851040 days, 851895 days, 852750 days, 853605 days, 854460 days, 855315 days, 856170 days, 857025 days, 857880 days, 858735 days, 859590 days, 860445 days, 861300 days, 862155 days, 863010 days, 863865 days, 864720 days, 865575 days, 866430 days, 867285 days, 868140 days, 869000 days, 869855 days, 870710 days, 871565 days, 872420 days, 873275 days, 874130 days, 875000 days, 875855 days, 876710 days, 877565 days, 878420 days, 879275 days, 880130 days, 880985 days, 881840 days, 882695 days, 883550 days, 884405 days, 885260 days, 886115 days, 886970 days, 887825 days, 888680 days, 889535 days, 890390 days, 891245 days, 892100 days, 892955 days, 893810 days, 894665 days, 895520 days, 896375 days, 897230 days, 898085 days, 898940 days, 899795 days, 900650 days, 901505 days, 902360 days, 903215 days, 904070 days, 904925 days, 905780 days, 906635 days, 907490 days, 908345 days, 909200 days, 910055 days, 910910 days, 911765 days, 912620 days, 913475 days, 914330 days, 915185 days, 916040 days, 916895 days, 917750 days, 918605 days, 919460 days, 920315 days, 921170 days, 922025 days, 922880 days, 923735 days, 924590 days, 925445 days, 926300 days, 927155 days, 928010 days, 928865 days, 929720 days, 930575 days, 931430 days, 932285 days, 933140 days, 934000 days, 934855 days, 935710 days, 936565 days, 937420 days, 938275 days, 939130 days, 940000 days, 940855 days, 941710 days, 942565 days, 943420 days, 944275 days, 945130 days, 9459



"From a shipwreck only three years ago, when few could see a future for this also-ran of the sector, Asda seems to be establishing a quite distinct place for itself in the market"

Asda's gain is the Conservative Party's loss

Archie Norman's attempt to undermine the right of manufacturers to set prices for over-the-counter medicines may for the moment involve only a limited number of products, but this could be just the beginning. Any breach of the dam, however small, is likely to prove fatal for the whole edifice. Following the demise of the Net Book Agreement - in which Mr Norman also had a hand - the protection of non-prescription drug prices is the last remaining legal price fixing arrangement. It is perhaps remarkable that this apparent anomaly has gone unchallenged for so long. Even so, the established manufacturers and pharmacy chains such as Boots will fight tooth and nail to preserve it.

The free market argument for abolishing the exemption centres on price. Asda says we pay too much for basic medicines. The profit margins on toiletries, for example, is around 50 per cent higher than those on food items. The argument for maintaining some kind of price fixing centres on choice and ease of access to a local pharmacy - pretty similar to the arguments in favour of the net book agreement.

If the OTC exemption disappeared, the supermarkets would cut prices, forcing small, independent pharmacies out of business, or so the argument goes. There is also an extra element in this debate that was absent from that over the net book agreement. The Government's free market principles should place it philosophically on the

side of deregulation, but its actual policies may put it on the other side of the fence. Its determination to shift the provision of medication out of hospitals and towards local GPs - while at the same time moving more drugs off prescription to make them available over the counter - would argue strongly in favour of preserving the present set-up.

What is clear is that Archie Norman is playing a shrewd hand. After his successful challenge to the Net Book Agreement, this is another public relations triumph that helps establish Asda as people's champion and a low cost alternative to rivals Sainsbury and Tesco. From a shipwreck only three years ago, when few could see a future for this also-ran of the sector, Asda seems to be establishing a quite distinct place for itself in the market. Fortunately for Asda's shareholders, Mr Norman's appetite for sinking ships is a limited one. Persistent speculation over his political ambitions have recently been quashed. Asda's gain is the Conservative Party's loss.

Latest sad scene in the Cedric saga

Poor Cedric Brown. He just can't seem to get it right. Having accepted a 75 per cent pay increase, he has now publicly denounced the hair shirt to atone for it, by refusing to join the board's long-term incentive bonus scheme. Both decisions are equally idiotic.

The justification for long term schemes, as companies never tire of telling their shareholders, is to motivate management to deliver top performance. Possibly Mr Brown thinks that theory is tosh, and that basic salary is more than enough by way of incentive. If so, you have to wonder why the company is continuing at all with a bonus scheme that will benefit 250 others.

More likely, this is another badly written scene in the painfully slow tragedy of Mr Brown's downfall. The original pay rise, justified as replacing an old and poorly structured bonus scheme, has already undermined Mr Brown's authority inside and outside the company. With the departure, announced yesterday, of his longest serving executive colleague, he has become an isolated figure on the board, the last of the executives who grew up with the company.

Chief executive he may still be, but power is slipping away. Increasingly that power now resides with Richard Giordano, the chairman. His critical views of some of the policy decisions taken before he arrived, particularly of refusal to contemplate demerging the public gas supply business, is well known.

As the share price has been indicating for some time, British Gas is in a hole. The company is being progressively squeezed by the introduction of competition, which has knocked its share of the industrial users' market for six at a time when selling prices are falling and high price North Sea pro-

duction contracts are eating a hole in its balance sheet. Next year, competition begins experimentally in the domestic market, and who knows what that may lead to.

The company's safe and lucrative monopoly business is the transmission grid, but the terms under which it runs the grid are under attack from the regulator, Clare Spottiswoode. Mr Giordano is wrestling with a serious problem. The public perception of British Gas is that it is a profiteering monopoly run by overpaid executives. The commercial reality of the profits outlook, as the City has been aware since well before the salary scandal broke, is exactly the opposite.

Waiting for more smoke and mirrors

The Conservatives have danced away at least six of the seven veils in their heavy hints of tax cuts to come in the November budget. The result in the short run at least is that the markets will be casting an even bolder eye on the PSBR for September.

The first five months of the year has brought little but disappointment on the budget deficit. If the City's forecast of around £4bn for September is proved right, then that will add a further month in which there was no improvement. The underlying position - excluding privatisation receipts - is showing some modest decline, at £300m

a month. The implication would be a PSBR not far short of last year's eventual deficit of £36bn.

Last week's Green Budget from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs projected a more optimistic outcome of £27bn, but even that is still considerably worse than the £21.5bn foreseen by the Treasury at the time of the last budget. The shortfall has arisen principally on the revenue side. Receipts are lower, says the Green Budget, because both inflation and growth are lower than expected.

Despite this, the Green Budget said that modest tax cuts of £2-3bn next year were compatible with a PSBR of £17bn for 1996-97, which is not far short of the government's objective of £13bn last November. However, that is based on the notion that there will be a decline in real public spending in 1996/7. This, however, is a pre-election or election year. Traditionally, chancellors loosen the purse strings in such years. To tighten them might seem like political madness.

Septicism about such a scenario is widespread in the City, as is the notion that Kenneth Clarke will in practice yank this year's PSBR back into shape by not allocating to spending departments the contingency reserve of £3bn. It hardly makes for a propitious background for a tax-cutting budget, but one is coming for sure. No doubt the Treasury is already putting in an advance order for smoke and mirrors.

Boardroom upheaval: Speculation over future of chief executive grows as he waives right to £2m long-term incentive scheme

Brown hangs on as British Gas purges old guard

MARY FAGAN
Industrial Correspondent

British Gas announced sweeping boardroom changes yesterday, leaving chief executive, Cedric Brown, as the only remaining member of the old guard. The shake-out - the biggest since Richard Giordano became chairman in January 1994 - coincided with confirmation that Mr Brown is waiving his right to a long-term incentive scheme that could eventually have earned him about £2m in shares.

The move fuelled speculation over the future of Mr Brown, who has almost five years to go before he officially retires. However British Gas said: "Cedric is not going" and that the changes announced yesterday are "part of an on-going process of orderly change". City analysts said some purge of the old guard has been expected to take British Gas forward in a changing industry.

At the same time the company revealed details of the incentive scheme, under which three directors have been "allocated" a total of up to 287,452 shares worth almost £700,000 at yesterday's closing price. The number finally awarded depends on company performance and the shares will not be released for five or six years.

The management changes include the abrupt departure yesterday of Russell Herbert, the 51-year-old executive director with responsibilities including the global gas business. His duties will be assumed by Stephen Brandon, who recently joined the board from General Electric of the US.

It was also announced that Howard Dalton and Norman Blacker, also executive directors, will retire "in due course". Mr Dalton is aged 61 and has responsibilities including exploration and production. Mr Blacker is 57 and has been

with British Gas since 1969. His duties cover Europe and the UK gas trading operations.

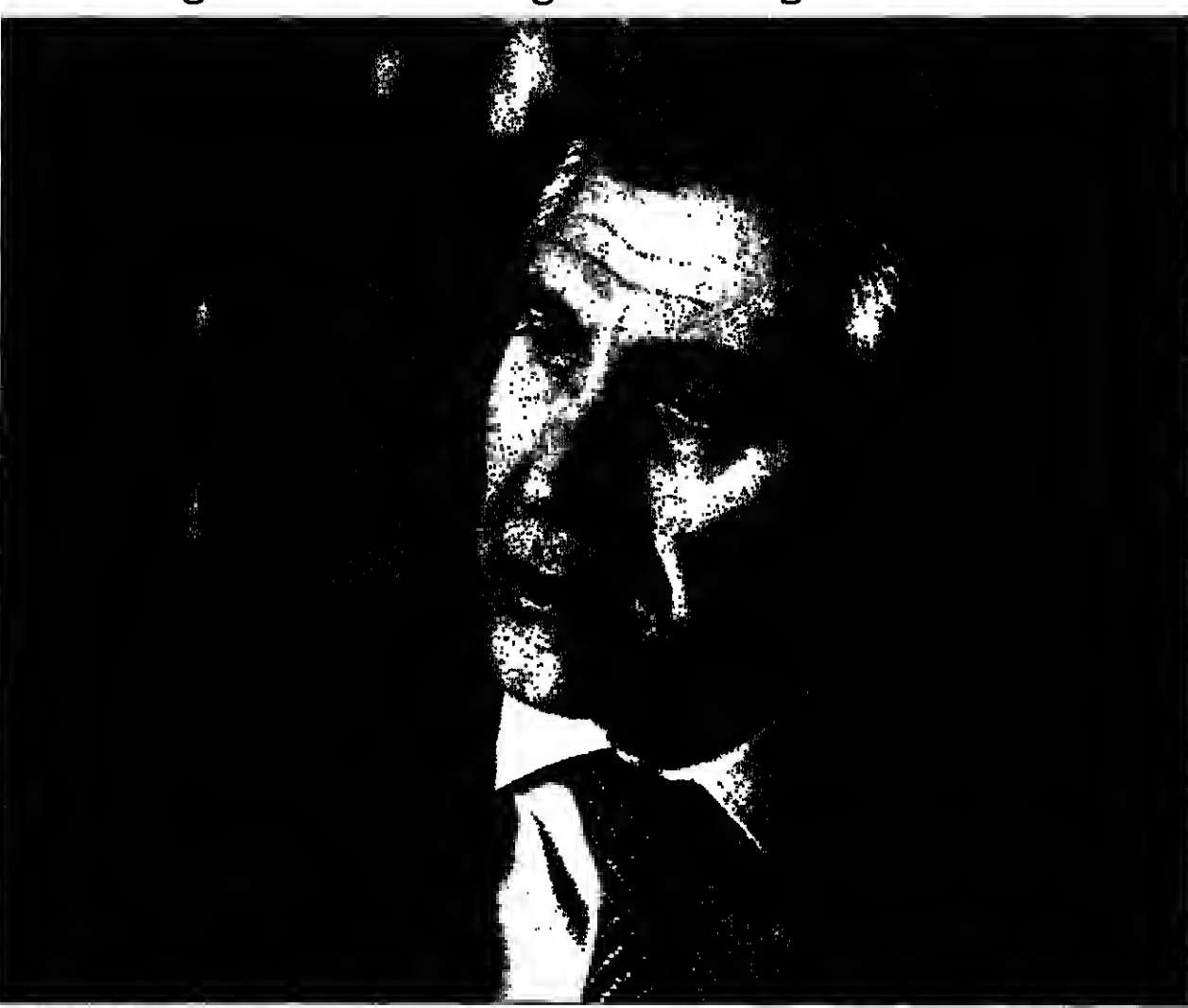
The company refused to comment on whether Mr Herbert, who has been with British Gas since 1966, will receive any payoff. He was on a two-year rolling contract with pay and benefits last year totalling £178,000. It is also unclear what will happen to the residential property bought jointly by British Gas and Mr Herbert in 1992. Last year's annual report valued the company's share of the property at about £40,000.

Mr Brown has been at the centre of controversy since it was revealed last November that his basic pay had been increased by 75 per cent to £475,000. The situation has been exacerbated by a series of public relations fiascos that have dogged the company for almost a year.

Explaining his decision not to take part in the long-term incentive scheme, Mr Brown said: "I believe too much attention has been paid to my remuneration over the past 11 months and sincerely hope that we can now get on with the many complex and difficult challenges facing the company. I strongly believe it is in the best interests of the company if I do not participate in the scheme."

One City analyst said the changes announced yesterday should not be seen as an attempt to apportion blame. "This reflects the need for a smaller, more commercially oriented and more dynamic board. It should mean a better chance of getting key decisions through," he said.

The relentless demise of British Gas' reputation from



Mover and shaker: Under Richard Giordano, British Gas is likely to seek international expansion Photograph: Geraint Lewis

one of being highly regarded by the public has astonished the City and the industry as a whole. The company is being forced to restructure to prepare for competition in the domestic gas market from next spring - a timetable imposed by the Government that has been widely but quietly criticised as being too tight.

The resulting upheaval caused a deterioration in some service standards and unhappiness among many customers. It has also caused problems between British Gas and rival suppliers who need to use the company's pipes.

British Gas has also exacerbated the situation by introducing a series of deeply

unpopular measures ranging from discounts for prompt payers at the expense of others to the ending of bill payment at gas showrooms.

Complaints and enquiries made to the company and to the Gas Consumers' Council have soared. In what became a vicious spiral earlier this year the company could not cope with the influx of telephone calls, which in turn caused even more complaints.

The Gas Consumers' Council holds the view that the company, while attempting to bring standards of service towards former levels, does not feel that British Gas has focused itself enough on the consumer. There is also a view in the industry that

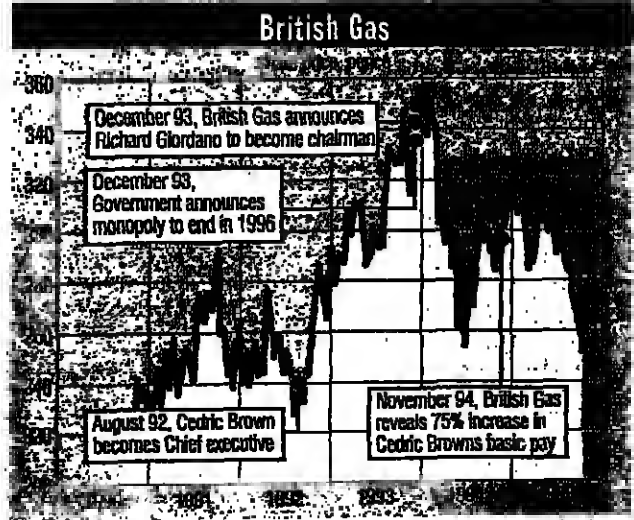
the company, under Mr Giordano's rein, will become more of an international player and could even sell out of public gas supply as competition grows and margins are squeezed. It is thought that Ofgas would not object to such a move, as long as the gas supply operation was sold piecemeal. The regional electricity companies, most of which already supply gas to industrial or commercial users, would probably be keen to buy.

The bulk of British Gas' assets in the UK in any case lie in the multi-billion pound pipeline system, which will remain a monopoly. It is seen as the jewel in the crown. But any sale of the gas supply business would

end the group's role as a public service company. And that, whatever the ambitions of the young blood in the boardroom, is still how millions of consumers see British Gas.

British Gas Directors

Director	Joined
Cedric Brown	1992
Roy Gardner	1994
Philip Rogerson	1992
Stephen Brandon	1995
Going	
Russell Herbert	1996
Howard Dalton	1990
Norman Blacker	1990



GEC telecoms chief set to go

The chairman of GEC's telecoms division may be asked to resign today at what is likely to be a tense board meeting of the defence electronics giant, writes Russell Hotten.

Richard Reynolds, a GEC director and long-time executive at GPT, is thought to be behind criticism of the way the appointment of a successor to Lord Weinstock has been handled. Observers believe it is unlikely that Mr Reynolds can survive, and one source said it was possible he will go before he is pushed.

Concern that Lord Weinstock's son, Simon, would replace him as managing director at GEC is said to have led Mr Reynolds to begin a campaign among some institutional shareholders to stop the move. Mr Reynolds, 56, failed to gather much support among other GEC directors.

Mr Reynolds, who joined GEC in 1960 and was appointed a director in 1986, may have had ambitions to succeed Lord Prior as chairman, though the company ruled this out some time ago. Two weeks ago Lord Prior tried to kill growing speculation about the succession by saying a shortlist was close to being completed. Simon Wein-

stock was not thought to be one of the final candidates.

George Simpson, chief executive of Lucas, has emerged as one of the favourites to succeed Lord Weinstock. Lucas yesterday said the suggestion, which caused a dip in the share price, was just speculation.

Mr Simpson joined Lucas in April 1994 from British Aerospace, where he was deputy chief executive. He was credited with turning round Rover Cars before it was sold to BMW. He also worked closely with GEC, BAE's largest customer.

Other candidates to replace Lord Weinstock are Sir Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtauld and Reuters, and Peter Levene, former procurement chief at the Ministry of Defence.

Today's GEC board meeting is also due to confirm the appointment as a non-executive director of Richard Needham, the former trade minister.

Ford to double capacity at Wales engine plant

RUSSELL HOTTEN

Ford, the US car company, was today hoping to confirm plans for an investment of more than £300m to double capacity at its engine plant in South Wales.

The company's executives were last night said to be putting the finishing touches to the plan, which is expected to be announced by the Secretary of State for Wales, William Hague.

The Government is backing the project with state aid, and officials worked hard behind the scenes to persuade Ford to choose its Bridgend plant against competition from factories in Spain and Germany.

"There are still one or two administrative things to be sorted," said a Ford spokesman. "We are hopeful of news."

The investment is likely to provide a huge jobs boost, both at Bridgend and among UK components suppliers. Speculation that the investment would be between £250m and £300m were said by one Ford source to be "a bit of a mark".

The Bridgend plant employs about 800 workers and produces about 550,000 engines a year, including engines for Ford's popular Mondeo model. Last April, Ford said it was putting another £200m into a new production line for diesels at its Dagenham plant in Essex. The expansion means Bridgend will make the 1.25 litre Zetec engine for Ford's new Fiesta car, which will be unveiled at the London Motor Show on Thursday.

Alex Shotman, Ford's chairman, told a conference yesterday: "We feel very good about prospects for 1996. We are going into 1996 with an extremely strong product line."

For the industry as a whole, 1996 would be a stronger year than 1995, and further improvements are likely in 1997, Mr Shotman said. He added that Ford is looking to add an additional 200-300 new dealers in Japan as part of the US/Japan car agreement, in addition to its existing 300 dealers.

"We'd like to sign some of the very strong indigenous Japanese dealers, primarily Nissan and Toyota." He added that the strong Japanese auto sales presence in the US was built up on the back of Ford, General Motors and Chrysler dealers.

Meanwhile, Rover car company today confirmed that it was exploring the possibilities of building a new engine plant, possibly in the West Midlands.

"We will eventually own our engine facilities and it is likely that we will make a decision within the next six months," a Rover spokesman said. However, BMW, Rover's parent, played down the suggestion. "Neither the plant's capacity, nor how much we will invest in it, nor its location has yet been decided," a spokesman said.

COMPANY RESULTS

	Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
Domestic Holdings (p)	0.62m (0.49m)	0.37m (0.2m)	1.71p (0.75p)	nil (nil)
Office Property (p)	1.22m (0.72m)	0.34m (0.22m)	0.40p (0.46p)	nil (nil)
Highland China (p)	181m (178m)	42.9m (42.5m)	22.1p (21.9p)	7.5p (7.25p)
Portals Electronics (p)	253m (228m)	0.07m (0.03m)	38.1p (14.3p)	4.6p (3.8p)
Howell (p)	4.18m (4.18m)	0.37m (2.24m)	1.5p (-71.4p)	nil (nil)
Trading Systems (p)	0.43m (0.21m)	0.23m (0.07m)	3.17p (0.85p)	nil (nil)
Singapore Pines Hotel (p)	0.53m (0.24m)	0.34m (0.15m)	2.27p (0.76p)	nil (nil)
(p) - Continuity (p) - Total (p) - Items				

This advertisement is issued in compliance with the requirements of The International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland Limited (the "London Stock Exchange"). It does not constitute an invitation to the public to subscribe for, or purchase, any securities in China & Eastern Investment Company Limited (the "Company"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for all the warrants to be issued by the Company ("Warrants") immediately following the Company's proposed capital reorganisation to be admitted to the Official List. It is expected that admission of the Warrants will become effective, and that dealings in the Warrants will commence, on 22nd December, 1995.

CHINA & EASTERN INVESTMENT COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability)

Reorganisation Proposals involving Repurchase of Shares Bonus issue of Warrants De-listing from the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Winding-up of the Company to be proposed in the year 2000 Financial adviser to China & Eastern Investment Company Limited SBC Warburg, a division of Swiss Bank Corporation

Details of the proposals referred to above are contained in the document dated 16th October, 1995 which has been approved by the London Stock Exchange and Hong Kong Stock Exchange as listing particulars relating to China & Eastern Investment Company Limited (the "Listing Particulars"). Copies of the Listing Particulars may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) from the date of this notice up to and including 18th October, 1995 (for collection only) from the Company Announcements Office, London Stock Exchange Tower, Capel Court, Off Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 1HP and during normal business hours from the date of this notice up to and including 31st October, 1995 from:

China & Eastern Investment Company Limited
8th Floor
Princes Building
HONG KONG

Baring Asset Management
155 Bishopsgate
London
EC2M 3XY

17th October, 1995

business

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Cash-rich Farnell looks overseas

Lucky Farnell Electronics just doesn't know what to do with all the cash thrown off by its successful catalogue-based component distribution business. Despite paying £37m on acquisitions – principally fellow distributor Combined Precision Components in May – Farnell still had over £70m in net cash at the end of July, representing 38 per cent of shareholders' funds.

Unless the group finds something to spend the money on, this embarrassment of riches is only going to deepen. Yesterday's half-year results to July were inflated by the £35.3m gain on the sale of Farnell's manufacturing arm, but underlying profits grew by a healthy 25 per cent to £36m. That translated into operating cash flow of £17.6m even before acquisitions and disposals.

CPC, which sells to the UK repair market, is going like a train and actually ran out of catalogues in the spring. There is still plenty of scope to lever its 15 per cent margins, possibly up to the 20 per cent plus typical in the rest of the group's catalogue business.

What can be done is illustrated by Multicomponents, acquired in December 1993 and now a large part of the group's other division, distributing electronic bits and pieces to industrial customers. Margins have been raised from around 1.5 per cent to 6 per cent, tripling profits in under two years, and management is now aiming to lift the divisional return on sales to over 10 per cent.

Even so, with over 80 per cent of the home market tied up between Farnell and Electrocomponents, its slightly bigger competitor, the more exciting growth is to be had overseas. The European market, worth up to \$6bn, is six times as big as that of the UK, while

the US is three times as big again. The Far Eastern market is also substantial.

Farnell is having success with its formula overseas. Australia and France are becoming substantial businesses and the only real disappointment in the half year was Germany, where restrictions on supplies from IBM knocked sales though profits doubled.

But the real excitement must come from Farnell's entry this month into the key US and Far Eastern markets. The £1.5m or so cost to profits this year could take up to three years to pay back, but the cash cost will be small and fully justified by the potential returns.

Upgraded forecasts put profits at £75m this year, rising to £86m next, giving a prospective p/e of 18, falling to

16, with the shares at 658p, up 7p. The overseas moves carry some risk, but that does not justify the substantial discount to Electrocomponents' rating. Hold.

Famous Grouse about tax bill

Whether or not you agree with the Scotch industry's persistent bleatings for a more equitable tax regime, full-year figures from Highland Distilleries yesterday underlined the need for something to give.

With input costs on the rise, over-heads already pared down effectively

and retail prices remaining under pressure it is hard to see where profits growth is going to come from.

Not from growing volumes, if sales trends in the world's biggest markets are any guide. Last year Europe as a whole was flat as a pancake, although even that flatters as the UK, still more than half Highland's business, fell worryingly.

That led to a disappointing pre-tax profits rise of just 1 per cent to £42.9m (£42.5m). It was punished by the stockmarket, where the shares fell 12p to 379p.

Forecasts, already fairly unambitious, were revised in yesterday.

The only bright spot for investors was the comfortable dividend cover, which meant that despite earnings per share only improving slightly to 22.1p (21.9p), the full-year payout was able to jump 9 per cent to 7.3p (7.26p).

Highland's biggest problem is its unusually large exposure to the UK consumer, which last year bought 7 per cent less Scotch than the year before. That makes it even more vulnerable than the rest of the industry to what does appear to be an unfairly harsh tax bill, which accounts for £7.63 of the cost of a £12.50 bottle of whisky.

The company has stuck to its guns on price but doing so has had the inevitable result, with consumers objecting to paying maybe £2 more per bottle for Famous Grouse than for the supermarkets' own brands.

In the short term profits are unlikely to exceed more than about £45m this year.

On a prospective price/earnings ratio of over 16, a big premium to Guinness, the shares still look expensive.

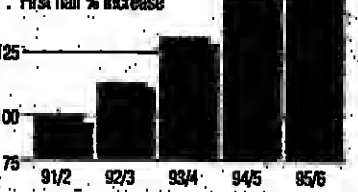
Farnell Electronics: at a glance

Market value: £289m, share price 658p

Trading record	1993	1994	1995	1994	1995
Turnover (£m)	229.5	230.0	230.0	230.0	230.0
Pre-tax profits (£m)	41.6	49.1	58.2	28.7	71.3
Earnings per share (pence)	22.1	24.5	28.2	21.9	22.1
Dividends per share (pence)	6.2	7.4	9.0	3.8	4.6

Catalogue sales

First half % increase



Share price

pence



The right sort of takeover boom

ECONOMIC VIEW

HAMISH McRAE



The wave of takeovers continues. Bull markets and takeover booms are so closely associated it would be very odd, with a secure economic recovery and the Footsie within a whisker of its all-time high, were there not a surge of takeovers and mergers. The interesting question is not to ask why there should be a boom, but rather to ask why this one is different from previous versions, and in particular how a different sort of takeover boom might interact with what is clearly a different sort of economic recovery.

Over-simplifying somewhat, this boom has two main distinguishing features: it is concentrated into a small number of specific areas, in particular financial services and the former nationalised public utilities, and the rationale is unusually skewed towards cost-cutting. You do not, on the whole, get chief executives in the UK proclaiming that they are bidding for this or that firm because it is a wonderful way to expand into a new and exciting market. Instead the stress is on the savings that might come from rationalisation. Unsurprisingly, financial services and public utilities are the areas where the perceived savings are greatest.

So the merger boom is not a late-1980s burst of euphoria; rather a mid-1990s cold shower. And of course this is reflected in the different tone of the economic recovery. Tell people that last year saw the highest growth since 1988 and they are unimpressed. It doesn't feel like that. The sense of insecurity is far too great.

All this might seem straightforward. It is quite reasonable to argue that a different sort of economic recovery should require a different sort of corporate response. What is less obvious is the way in which the corporate response makes possible a different set of economic policies.

In a nutshell, a series of takeovers where the rationale is to grind down costs – and inevitably employment – both demands and makes possible an expansionist economic policy, whereas a takeover boom built on an overly confident perception of the prospects for growth demands a restrictive set of policies. The only way in which the people who lose their jobs

in the large companies will find employment is by there being sufficient growth in smaller firms. That can only happen under conditions of decent growth.

On the other hand, a world where companies are grinding down costs instead of passing them on in higher prices is an economy that can sustain cheap money without that money immediately feeding through the economy, creating higher inflation. Monetary policy, by the way, must be used to encourage growth. In the text-books they still suggest governments can stimulate growth by running an easy fiscal policy. But the danger of a perverse reaction in the bond markets is too great.

A number of countries that allowed their fiscal deficits to rise sharply during the last eco-

more relentless the extraction of consequential cost savings, the more the authorities can take risks with inflation. That does not mean they can go wild, nor does it mean they should expand their fiscal deficits. But it does mean there is a micro-economic or structural reason for seeking to hold down interest rates, as well as any macro-economic reasons.

A third is that the more the Government of the day seeks to slow the process, as a future Labour government might, the less it can rely on this to hold down inflationary forces. For it is not just post-merger restructuring that helps cut costs; fear-of-takeover restructuring is just as effective.

Economists are not good at spotting the way in which micro and macro policies interact. Remember how the failure to see how financial deregulation and easy money would feed on each other exacerbated the 1987/88 boom? But that was a negative interaction bound to end in tears. The present process is positive. Or rather it is positive provided it is sustained by the authorities.

So what will happen next? There is a natural cycle to the mergers in both financial services and the public utilities. At some stage in the next year, perhaps 18 months, the job will be done. On past experience, however, long before those two particular seams are mined, the markets will be seeking other areas where a reorganisation of the corporate world promises similar cost savings. So the takeover boom can run for rather longer than that.

What might choke it off? One candidate would be a sharp rise in interest rates, probably associated with a sharp fall in share prices. Another would be a less liberal attitude to mergers. But provided the authorities appreciate that the more rapid the structural change in the company sector the greater the economy's capacity for growth, the less likely they are to call a halt. Expect this particular show to run a while yet.

This is not a 1980s burst of euphoria, but a 90s cold shower

economic cycle, in particular Canada, Sweden and Italy, saw a correspondingly sharp rise in the risk premium demanded by the bond markets. If long rates go up, they invariably drag short rates up behind. Result: any stimulus through an easy fiscal policy was offset by higher interest rates.

So this is the takeover boom that is not only wholly consistent with cheap money, it actually requires cheap money. Put another way, the micro-economic process of industrial restructuring needs cheap money both to finance it and to shelter its victims from the harsh consequences. If this argument is right, there are a number of practical consequences. The first and in a way most interesting to the financial markets is that this takeover boom can continue for a long while.

A second is that the more mergers that take place and the

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Consultants get ready to mix it in a loose maul

Mike Catt, the England rugby union full-back, and the first player to turn professional, is shortly to announce a sponsorship deal with a firm of management consultants. The coup is certain to lead to collective hysteria among rival firms, followed by a mad scramble for the remainder of the England team.

England rugby internationals will be paid £40,000 a year by the Rugby Football Union this season. Like footballers, they are free to negotiate individual deals on top of their salaries. But while Eric Cantona makes big bucks from his endorsement of Nike boots, rugby players may find it more difficult to push the questionable benefits of management consultancy.

It is one thing for Andersen Consulting to plaster its name over the crash helmet of the Grand Prix driver Damon Hill (although the image is slightly tarnished when filmed amid the wreckage of his Williams Renault). But there is not much mileage to be had from a minuscule logo stitched on the shorts of a fast-running player (unless he happens to be sent off).

No, the consultants must surely expect more. Post-match interviews with players are sure to degenerate into the cap-



Mike Catt: talking terms with management consultants

changing exercises pioneered by the Grand Prix drivers.

One firm that may have a distinct advantage is McKinsey. It could follow the example of the National Grid in cricket and sponsor the umpire/referee.

The Bank of England Governor's goodwill tour of the Far East appears to have a touch of Foreign Office diplomacy about it. Eddie George yesterday arrived in Hong Kong to begin a drum-beating visit to Tokyo, Shanghai, Peking and Kuala Lumpur. Singapore, however, is not on the agenda. This may have something to do with the fact Singapore authorities are today publishing their report on the Baring's disaster. International relations would not be best served by a public birching of Britain's central banker.

Robbed of his chance to become a finance director of an FTSE 100 stock when the Medeva/Fisons talks collapsed, Dennis Millard has taken the direct route and gone to Cookson. After 13 years with the Plate Glass Company of South Africa the Medeva finance director simply would not be denied his crack at the big time.

The City was in no doubt that Mr Millard would have taken the financial helm in

the combined group rather than his counterpart at Fisons. David Hankinson, the Fisons FD, is building an impressive track record of handsome payoffs. Since March 1992 he walked away with £350,000 from Lucas and an estimated £400,000 from Ranks Hovis McDougall. Now Fisons has been taken over he stands to make about £270,000 on his two year contract plus nearly £750,000 from share options.

The removal of Derek Lewis as the Director General of the Prison Service may come as a blessed relief to his administration staff. The former chief executive of Granada earned an unenviable reputation during his time at the leisure and television concern as a man who found it hard to delegate control.

The result was an avalanche of memos, backing up his every action, even down to minor secretarial matters.

Granada insiders are still shaken by the sheer volume of paper work he left behind. Some have suggested, a little unkindly, that it has taken the two years that Mr Lewis has been at the Prison Service to clear the backlog. At least Sir John Learmont, who prepared yesterday's report, was not short of documentary evidence.

We're now
serving
first class meals
to business travellers
whenever
they want.



Our flexible dining service offers anything from light appetisers to an exquisite 5 course meal, served whenever you wish. Together with seats that double as beds, there's everything you'd expect from the world's most experienced trans-Atlantic airline. (And all for a business class fare.) For flight reservations to St. Louis and over 100 other US destinations call your travel agent or TWA on 0345 333 333.

FIRST CLASS SERVICE. BUSINESS CLASS FARE.



طيران العالم

market report/shares

TAKING STOCK

Market pauses for thought on a quiet trading day

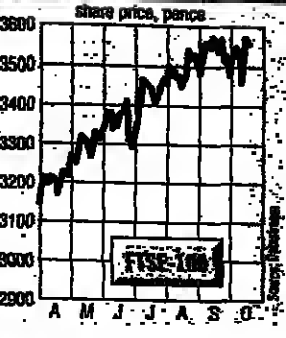
MARKET REPORT
JOHN SHEPHERD



DATA BANK

FT-SE 100
3557.3 -10.7
FT-SE 250
3939.0 -6.3
FT-SE 350
1771.3 -4.7
SEAQ VOLUME
498.2m shares,
30,433 bargains
Gilts Index
92.93 -0.06

SHARE SPOTLIGHT



It was time yesterday to take stock of events, or rather the lack of them, that last week powered the leading share index to within a whisker of its all-time high.

The mood in dealing rooms was somewhat deflated after the giant bid that had been expected on Friday failed to materialise. Thoughts soon turned to the plethora of UK economic statistics to be unleashed this week, starting today with the public sector borrowing requirement for September, followed by average earnings, unemployment, and retail sales tomorrow.

Share prices drifted in negative territory throughout yesterday. The FT-SE 100 share index closed 10.7 points down, and the FT-SE 250 lost 6.3 to finish at 3,939.0. The gilt-edged market was also subdued, ahead of today's announcement of the timing for the next Treasury auction.

Trading volumes in equities were dismal, and transactions were generally small-scale. The rumour mill, which had been in overdrive last week, was barely turning over. But the belief that a big takeover is in the wings still held some sway, helping to underpin some of the leading shares.

Gains among the leaders were contained to just a few pence. Thomson EMI was the only member of the top 100 club to record a double-digit advance, rising 21p to £15.27 on some hopes that its plans to de-merge will be superseded by a full-blown bid by Viacom or Disney. Cable & Wireless came close to double-digit territory, with a 9p advance to 426p on a rumour that the company was about to form a strategic alliance with Siemens of Germany.

The rumour, for once, may hold some truth, with an after-hours announcement from

Siemens that it tomorrow will announce an acquisition and strategic partnership with a leading UK telecommunications carrier. Analysts believe Siemens may well buy the customer equipment business, formerly known as Telephone Rentals, and part of C&W's Mercury Communications subsidiary.

Grand Met, which featured in several different rumours last week, remained in demand. More than 3.5 million were traded, and the price rose 3p to 457p, just 2p shy of the year's high.

The speculation that Grand Met may sell its IDV drinks business to Allied Domecq,

down 7p to 518p, was still doing the rounds. The main reason for Allied's dismal showing yesterday, however, probably had more to do with the disappointing results and a gloomy statement on prospects for the UK market in spirits from Highland Distilleries, off 12p to 379p.

There are some fears that Christmas could see a repeat of the price-ating battle between Allied, producer of Teacher's whisky, Guinness, owner of Superdrug, dipped 8p to 502p, hardly the best endorsement the company might have expected on a day it announced that Sir John Banham, former director general of the CBI, would succeed Sir

Nigel Mobbs as chairman. BCE, the computer games company quoted on the Unlisted Securities Market, gained 1.5p to 21p amid further talk of stake-building. Almost 1.5 million were traded.

Encouraging prospects for the 'bau field in the North Sea lifted Enterprise Oil by 7p to 356p. Edinburgh Oil & Gas added 2p to 20.5p after taking stakes in Stirling and Albany, two onshore fields in the UK.

Close Brothers, the small merchant bank, finished 9p better at 318p on a 96 per cent take-up of its rights issue. NatWest Securities easily placed the rights rump of 730,000 shares at 307p each.

Among the fallers were Abnorters - off 6p to 359p on the back of a bearish analysis from NatWest - and RPS Industries, down 6p to 277p after BZW downgraded its recommendation from hold to sell.

Gas Carter, the Sunderland-based betting shop chain, slumped to yet another low, dropping 9p to 52p on a further warning about the effect of the Lottery on its business. The shares were floated five months ago at 80p. After a recent drop in pre-tax profits from £589,000 to £377,000 for the six months to June, the company yesterday warned that trading has continued to be disappointing. The number of bets and the average size of stakes fell throughout the summer, and win margins have also been poor.

While betting shops are suffering, casino operators are faring better. London Clubs, down as low as 264p in the last year, closed 3p up at 426p on news of a management contract to run the Beirut casino. The company will also take an unspecified minority holding in the casino complex, owned by Casino du Liban.

SHARE PRICE DATA

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price-earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights x 2 = dividend x 2 = United Securities Market x Supended 7P Parity Paid per Nil Paid Shares. Source: Financial Times.

THE INDEPENDENT INDEX

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time	00	Seaq Rates	04	Privatisation Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	01	Seaq Report	05	Water Shares	39
UK Company News	02	Seaq Report	06	Electricity Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Seaq Market	21	High Street Banks	41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 875 4375 (9.30am - 5.30pm). Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES

Stock	Value (£m)	Stock	Value (£m)	Stock	Value (£m)		
ARMADA Group	12,000	Boots	5,700	Cable & Wire	4,800	BP Ind.	3,800
BTZ	10,000	BT	5,200	Bank of Scotland	4,000	Albert Fisher	3,800
FTI	7,000	Admiral	4,100	BP	4,100	Rolls Royce	3,600
Shell Gas	6,400	General Elect.	5,100	Canon	3,800	British Airways	3,700
Procter & Gamble	5,100	Hanson	4,700	Barton	3,800	Glaxo Wellcome	3,600

FT-SE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR

9.00 3565.0 down 3.0					12.00 3551.8 down 16.2					15.00 3554.3 down 13.7				
0.00 3557.9 down 10.1					13.00 3553.0 down 15.0					Close 3557.3 down 10.7				

9495					9495				
Low	Stock	Price Chg	Yld	Index	High	Low	Price Chg	Yld	Index
Low	Chn-Chen	2014	6.8	3553	Low	Chn-Chen	2014	6.8	3553

BANKS, MERCHANT

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BANKS, RETAIL

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BREWERIES

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BANKS, MERCHANT

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BANKS, RETAIL

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BREWERIES

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BANKS, MERCHANT

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BANKS, RETAIL

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BREWERIES

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

BUILDING/CONSTRUCTION

Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
NatWest	4.00	Paragon	4.00	Yorkshire	4.00	Other	4.00

ELECTRONICS

282	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
283	Nat							
284	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
285	Nat							
286	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
287	Nat							
288	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
289	Nat							
290	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
291	Nat							
292	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
293	Nat							
294	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
295	Nat							
296	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
297	Nat							
298	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
299	Nat							
300	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
301	Nat							
302	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
303	Nat							
304	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
305	Nat							
306	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
307	Nat							
308	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
309	Nat							
310	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
311	Nat							
312	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
313	Nat							
314	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
315	Nat							
316	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
317	Nat							
318	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
319	Nat							
320	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
321	Nat							
322	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
323	Nat							
324	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
325	Nat							
326	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
327	Nat							
328	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
329	Nat							
330	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
331	Nat							
332	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
333	Nat							
334	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
335	Nat							
336	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
337	Nat							
338	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
339	Nat							
340	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
341	Nat							
342	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
343	Nat							
344	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
345	Nat							
346	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
347	Nat							
348	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
349	Nat							
350	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
351	Nat							
352	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
353	Nat							
354	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
355	Nat							
356	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
357	Nat							
358	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
359	Nat							
360	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
361	Nat							
362	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
363	Nat							
364	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
365	Nat							
366	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
367	Nat							
368	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
369	Nat							
370	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
371	Nat							
372	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
373	Nat							
374	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
375	Nat							
376	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
377	Nat							
378	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
379	Nat							
380	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
381	Nat							
382	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
383	Nat							
384	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
385	Nat							
386	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
387	Nat							
388	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
389	Nat							
390	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
391	Nat							
392	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
393	Nat							
394	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
395	Nat							
396	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
397	Nat							
398	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
399	Nat							
400	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
401	Nat							
402	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
403	Nat							
404	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
405	Nat							
406	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
407	Nat							
408	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
409	Nat							
410	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
411	Nat							
412	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
413	Nat							
414	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
415	Nat							
416	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
417	Nat							
418	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
419	Nat							
420	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
421	Nat							
422	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
423	Nat							
424	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
425	Nat							
426	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
427	Nat							
428	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
429	Nat							
430	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
431	Nat							
432	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
433	Nat							
434	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
435	Nat							
436	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
437	Nat							
438	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
439	Nat							
440	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
441	Nat							
442	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
443	Nat							
444	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
445	Nat							
446	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
447	Nat							
448	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
449	Nat							
450	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
451	Nat							
452	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
453	Nat							
454	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
455	Nat							
456	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
457	Nat							
458	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
459	Nat							
460	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
461	Nat							
462	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
463	Nat							
464	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
465	Nat							
466	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
467	Nat							
468	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
469	Nat							
470	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
471	Nat							
472	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
473	Nat							
474	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
475	Nat							
476	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
477	Nat							
478	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
479	Nat							
480	Bank of Scotland	4.00	Barclays	4.00	HSBC	4.00	Midland	4.00
481	Nat							

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

STERLING				DOLLAR				D-MARKS	
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	1.5784	15-17	34-31	1.0000	4-7	10-10	0.7040		
Canada	1.2094	15-16	34-31	0.8000	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
France	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	1.0500		
Germany	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Italy	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Japan	155.15	15-16	34-31	100.00	4-7	10-10	117.81		
SEU	1.2140	15-16	34-31	0.8000	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Belgium	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Netherlands	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Switzerland	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Spain	162.72	15-16	34-31	100.00	4-7	10-10	117.81		
Portugal	1.3628	15-16	34-31	0.6667	4-7	10-10	0.9409		
Australia	2.0000	10-10	30-31	0.7500	31-38	1.0735			
New Zealand	1.3710	10-10	30-31	0.7500	31-38	1.0735			
South Africa	1.3710	10-10	30-31	0.7500	31-38	1.0735			
Malaysia	1.3710	10-10	30-31	0.7500	31-38	1.0735			
Thailand	1.3710	10-10	30-31	0.7500	31-38	1.0735			
Singapore	2.2423	30-35	222-178	1.4223	35-35	0.8970			

OTHER SPOT RATES					
Country	Starting	Dollar	Country	Starting	Dollar
Argentina	1,570	0.0024	Nigeria	120.10	0.175
Brazil	1,570	0.0024	Pakistan	48,900	0.364
China	13,000,000	0.0005	Peru	41,745.00	0.37
Colombia	5,000,000	0.001	Portugal	32,624	148.21
Costa Rica	5,000,000	0.001	Qatar	2,500.00	2.6000
Cuba	200,000,000	0.00001	Romania	700.00	0.0007
Dominican	200,000,000	0.00001	South Africa	42.40	3.6480
Ecuador	200,000,000	0.00001	Taiwan	57.00	20.800
El Salvador	200,000,000	0.00001	Thailand	5.25	3.6710
Guatemala	200,000,000	0.00001	UAE	1.00	0.0000
Honduras	200,000,000	0.00001			
India	1,000,000	0.00001			
Indonesia	1,000,000	0.00001			
Iran	1,000,000	0.00001			
Israel	1,000,000	0.00001			
Italy	1,000,000	0.00001			
Japan	1,000,000	0.00001			
Korea	1,000,000	0.00001			
Malaysia	1,000,000	0.00001			
Mexico	1,000,000	0.00001			
Netherlands	1,000,000	0.00001			
Norway	1,000,000	0.00001			
Philippines	1,000,000	0.00001			
Poland	1,000,000	0.00001			
Portugal	1,000,000	0.00001			
Romania	1,000,000	0.00001			
Russia	1,000,000	0.00001			
Spain	1,000,000	0.00001			
Sweden	1,000,000	0.00001			
Switzerland	1,000,000	0.00001			
Taiwan	1,000,000	0.00001			
Thailand	1,000,000	0.00001			
Turkey	1,000,000	0.00001			
UAE	1,000,000	0.00001			
UK	1,000,000	0.00001			
US	1,000,000	0.00001			
Vietnam	1,000,000	0.00001			

Notes: Forward rates quoted from Asia to New York in 30 days. Forward rates quoted from New York to Asia in 30 days. All rates are for 100 units of foreign currency. All rates are for 100 units of foreign currency. All rates are for 100 units of foreign currency.

TOURIST RATES

Country	1 Day	7 Days	14 Days	1 Month
Australia (Dollars)	2,000.00	3,500.00	7,000.00	14,000.00
Canada (Dollars)	1,000.00	1,750.00	3,500.00	7,000.00
France (Francs)	100,000.00	175,000.00	350,000.00	700,000.00
Germany (DM)	100,000.00	175,000.00	350,000.00	700,000.00
Italy (Lira)	1,000,000.00	1,750,000.00	3,500,000.00	7,000,000.00
Japan (Yen)	100,000.00	1,750,000.00	3,500,000.00	7,000,000.00
UK (Sterling)	100.00	175.00	350.00	700.00
US (Dollar)	100.00	175.00	350.00	700.00

INTEREST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate	Country	Rate
UK	6.00%	Germany	5.50%	France	5.50%
US	5.00%	Canada	5.00%	Japan	5.00%
Italy	8.00%	Spain	8.00%	Belgium	5.00%
Netherlands	5.00%	Denmark	5.00%	Sweden	5.00%
Switzerland	5.00%	Australia	5.00%	Portugal	5.00%

BOND YIELDS

Country	5yr	10yr	Country	5yr	10yr
US	7.00%	8.00%	UK	7.00%	8.00%
Germany	6.00%	7.00%	France	6.00%	7.00%
Italy	8.00%	9.00%	Japan	5.00%	6.00%
Canada	5.00%	6.00%	Australia	5.00%	6.00%

MONEY MARKET RATES

Country	1 Day	7 Days	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	1 Year
US	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
UK	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Germany	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
France	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

LIFE FINTE INDEX FUTURES

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Est.Cmts	Open Interest
Dec 90	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Mar 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Jun 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Sep 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Dec 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000

LIFE FTSE INDEX OPTION

Contract	Settlement price	High/Low for day	Est.Cmts	Open Interest
Dec 90	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Mar 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Jun 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Sep 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000
Dec 91	319.31	309.30	305.07	300,000

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change	Commodity	Price	Change
Oil	25.00	+0.25	Gold	380.00	+5.00
Wheat	1.50	+0.05	Silver	15.00	+0.10
Corn	1.20	+0.02	Platinum	1000.00	+10.00
Soybeans	1.10	+0.01	Palladium	1500.00	+15.00
Aluminum	1.80	+0.02	Iron Ore	50.00	+1.00
Copper	2.00	+0.03	Nickel	20.00	+0.50
Zinc	1.50	+0.02	Cobalt	30.00	+0.50

Commodity	Price	Change	Commodity	Price	Change
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.25	Gold	380.00	+5.00
Wheat	1.50	+0.05	Silver	15.00	+0.10
Corn	1.20	+0.02	Platinum	1000.00	+10.00
Soybeans	1.10	+0.01	Palladium	1500.00	+15.00
Aluminum	1.80	+0.02	Iron Ore	50.00	+1.00
Copper	2.00	+0.03	Nickel	20.00	+0.50
Zinc	1.50	+0.02	Cobalt	30.00	+0.50

Commodity	Price	Change	Commodity	Price	Change
Crude Oil	25.00	+0.25	Gold	380.00	+5.00
Wheat	1.50	+0.05	Silver	15.00	+0.10
Corn	1.20	+0.02	Platinum	1000.00	+10.00
Soybeans	1.10	+0.01	Palladium	1500.00	+15.00
Aluminum	1.80	+0.02	Iron Ore	50.00	+1.00
Copper	2.00	+0.03	Nickel	20.00	+0.50
Zinc	1.50	+0.02	Cobalt	30.00	+0.50

LARGEST 100 INSURANCE FUNDS

Fund	Assets	Assets	Fund	Assets	Assets
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00
Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00

LARGEST 100 INSURANCE FUNDS

[illegible]

sport

The performance of the Bath backs must have gladdened Rowell's heart. It nevertheless gives him two problems

Not since South Africa annihilated Swansea at St Helen's a year ago have I seen such a display of attacking rugby as Bath gave when they defeated Bristol at the Rec on Saturday. Indeed, if the match had been allowed to go on for another 10 minutes (the excellent referee, Brian Campell, understandably blew up precisely on time, without allowing for second-half injuries) I have little doubt that Bath would have demolished the South Africans and put up over 70 points.

Of the two games, Saturday's was the more satisfying. Bristol are not a bad side and were not so on the day. They were simply confronted by a much better side. Jack Rowell was there to see the club he had

formerly coached triumph, and to draw the appropriate conclusions. Let me assist him in his task.

Graham Dawe may be older than Brian Moore but is Moore's equal as a hooker and in loose play. His tight head, Victor Ubogu, is the perpetual bad-boy of international and club rugby alike. He is said to be "casual" in his approach to the game. I do not know whether this is so or not. What I do know is that, once such a reputation has been acquired - whether in rugby or in general fields of endeavour - it is difficult to shake off. But there was nothing casual about Ubogu's display. In particular, he appeared quite comfortable against Bristol's loose head, Alan Sharp, who had

been puffed in advance as the visiting team's not-so-secret weapon. We all know about Nigel Redman. He is the player that all the other players (at any rate, the other forwards) pencil first into any side, from Bath to the Lions. He did nothing to detract from his reputation.

But why is no one pushing Martin Haag for a place in the England side? He has a curious build for one in his position, with powerful legs and a relatively narrow upper body. A bit like Jonah Lomu. Maybe, on account of these characteristics, he manages not only to do his work in the lineout but to pop up in all sorts of unexpected places in open play. And he has good hands - better hands, certainly, than Ben Clarke,



ALAN WATKINS
on rugby

though that is not saying much. However, I do not want to cast a sour note on the proceedings, especially as Clarke turned up mysteriously on the left wing to score a try.

Now that John Hall has retired from the No 6 position - though Bath, for some curious reason of their own, number the blind-side flanker No 7 and the open side No 6 - Steve Ojomoh can claim a regular place: unless, that is, Bath choose to move Clarke to No 6 in order to bring in Eric Peters.

But they are surely not going to mess Andy Robinson about any more. On Saturday he was everywhere, and had a hand in most of Bath's tries. In his autobiography (reviewed here last week), Moore wrote that Robinson was the superior of Neil Back who had, in Moore's opinion, been the beneficiary of a press campaign. The two players are commonly linked because

Robinson is 5ft 9in and Back 5ft 10, the latter having puzzlingly grown an inch in the past couple of years.

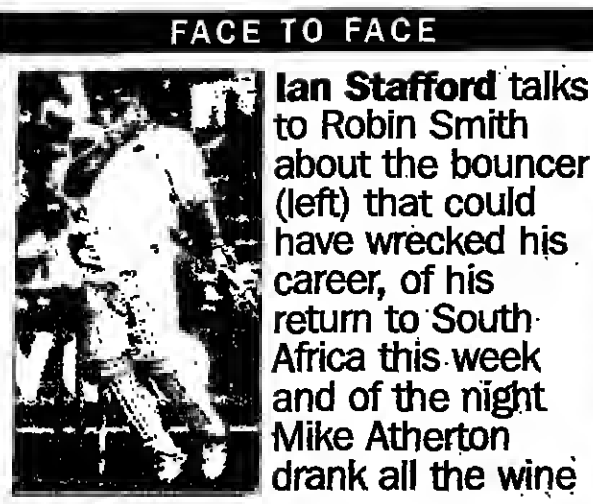
The truth is, however, that in his two international appearances Back has not performed as he has with Leicester or the Barbarians. This may have less to do with his height than with his temperament. My guess is, however, that Rowell will still go for the younger and taller Rory Jenkins of Harlequins in preference to Robinson - even though Paul Turner apparently made a monkey of Jenkins in the Sale match.

The performance of the Bath backs must have gladdened Rowell's heart. It nevertheless gives him two problems. One is whether to present Rob Andrew with his gold watch - he

deserves a silver teaset as well - and install Mike Catt at outside-half with Jon Callard at full-back. It was not a fair comparison between Callard and Bristol's Paul Hull, owing to Bath's superiority in other areas. Hull has been unlucky. But then so has Callard, who did enough to show his attacking potential.

Rowell's other problem is whether to drop Will Carling and go for the Bath couple, Phil de Glanville and Jeremy Guscott, who on Saturday were accelerating like a French TGV. The trouble is that, if he did this, it would look as if Carling was being punished for indiscretions which had nothing whatever to do with rugby. Still, lucky Bath, lucky Rowell, lucky England.

Squaring up to test of his life



FACE TO FACE

Ian Stafford talks to Robin Smith about the bouncer (left) that could have wrecked his career, of his return to South Africa this week and of the night Mike Atherton drank all the wine

Last week a small but crucial test took place in the misty solitude of Southampton's county ground. One of the best attackers of pace bowling in world cricket privately took guard and prepared to ask himself if he still had what it takes.

It is two months since the West Indian fast bowler, Ian Bishop, smashed a bouncer into the face of England's Robin Smith. The subsequent mess which was once the 32-year-old's cheek meant the end of his productive summer, and nearly his career.

Two depressed fractures later, plus an operation to insert, and then later remove, a plate, together with 14 stitches, resulted in an apprehensive Smith padding up for the first time since the injury in the Hampshire nets.

By his own admission, his exploratory batting session did not work well. The next morning, Smith returned to the nets, swallowed hard and took the plunge.

"They say that if you fall off a horse you should get straight back on it again," he said, constantly stroking the side of his face as if ensuring that it really is back in place. "So I got the bowling machine on fast and short. The balls kept flying at my face at tremendous speed, but I played well and never found myself in difficulty. In the space of 24 hours my confidence returned. Now I know I'm ready."

By this he means ready for the first England Test series in South Africa for 25 years. There is no one in the England squad, which leaves tomorrow, who was more determined to make this particular tour. For Smith, born and brought up in Durban, will be playing in front of what was his home crowd, in a country he left 15 years ago for a new life in England.

We are in the Hampshire dressing-rooms, presently enjoying some badly-needed decorating, where his brother, Chris, and perhaps the greatest South African batsman of all, Barry Richards, once sat. Talk of the tour makes Smith's whole face light up.

"Of course, when I left for England in 1980, nobody could see how South Africa would be accepted again in world sport," he said. "But as soon as South Africa were re-admitted, it became a dream of mine to play there for England. To go and play in my own backyard, where I learnt my cricket, in front of my former home crowd, will be more special than playing anywhere else in the world for me. I want to play in all five Tests, of course, but the third Test in Durban is the match I've got to be playing in."

What kind of a reception Smith will receive remains to be seen. Married to an English woman, with two children and a house in Salisbury, Smith sees himself as a fully-fledged Englishman, having lived here for 15 years. This may create some adversity. "When I became eligible to play for England in 1985, there were headlines in the South African newspapers saying: 'Smith turns his back on South Africa'. Since I left for England, I have been the subject of far more media coverage back in South Africa than any other English cricketer."

"I still don't know whether some people may think that I should be playing for South Africa against England, and I'm sure that, because of my

'I hope I'll be met with a lot of enthusiasm, but I realise it might go the other way'

reputation as a good player of pace, plus my origins, the South African bowlers will be especially keen to claim my wicket.

"I haven't got a clue how I will be treated when I'm over there. I hope I'll be met with a lot of enthusiasm, but I realise it might go the other way. I would feel sad if that's the case, because I honestly feel that I did not turn my back on my country. I was a 17-year-old kid, who was desperate to play cricket at the highest standard possible, and when Hampshire contacted me through my

brother, it was too good a chance to turn down."

Starting out a sporting career so far from home, and at such a tender age, was daunting enough, but Smith also had to contend with

the sudden discovery that life outside the pro-pariah South Africa was entirely different. "In South Africa I believed what I was told. We all did. I was taught about the Boer War, and about the Afrikaners, but never knew that Nelson Mandela was imprisoned in Robben Island.

"As a result, I was very naive. I had no idea what really went on outside the little world which was the former South Africa. There was no reason why I should have known, because when you're a kid you accept what you are taught at school and at home. Once I arrived in

England I quickly realised that the rest of the world had a different view of life. I read about what the world thought of South Africa, and about my former country's problems.

"It was a bit of a shock, but I adapted pretty quickly, as most young people do. I was made to feel welcome at Hampshire and got on with what I love most - playing cricket. Looking back, I, together with everyone else in South Africa, should have been made aware of everything at school.

"Now I'm delighted - together with the vast majority of South Africa - at how things have worked out over there. Mandela is a truly great man. To bear no grudges after what he lived through is remarkable, and I only hope that if country comes through the present testing problems as quickly as possible."

The next hurdle for Smith, if his dream is to come true, is to secure his position in the Test team. An absolute certainty in the late 1980s and early 1990s, he has endured some difficulty in holding his place in the England team in recent years.

Dropped before the final summer Test against Australia in 1993 - "Mike Atherton was staying at my house. He drank all my red wine the night before, and then told me I was out of the team over cornflakes the next morning" - Smith bounced back that winter against the West Indies, before a run of poor scores against New Zealand in the summer of 1994 resulted in him cruelly missing the

three-Test series against South Africa, and then last winter's tour to Australia.

He accepts that form has, from time to time, deserted him, but not the criticism he received from within the England camp. "Keith Fletcher's remarks during the Antigua Test in 1994 were a real setback for me," he admits. "I was 68 not out overnight, and he calls a press conference to announce to the world that too many outside interests were affecting my game. He accused me of being more concerned about making money off the field than being a dedicated cricketer."

"I like people to be honest with me. If someone comes up to me and tells me to my face, that I'm not playing well enough, then fine, but to rather tell the world's press what's wrong with my batting was, to say the least, disappointing. I went on to make 178, my highest Test score, the next morning. Perhaps if I hadn't been thinking about business, I would have made 250."

Point taken. Smith concedes he was not as dedicated as he should have been, but for very different reasons. "I'd been playing virtually full-time cricket for 13 years, and felt burnt out. As a result, I wasn't practising as much as I should have been. I was in Australia last win-

ter, watching the Test series while on business with my travel company, and I realised how much I missed cricket and that I would rather have been out there with the England boys. Being dropped gave me the kicking I needed, but I resented the accusations."

"When things go slightly wrong, people always look for excuses, and I have always felt, as an outsider who's come in, that I have to do a little better than everyone else. Lambie (Allan Lamb) has gone through the same thing. You don't quite seem to get as many chances. The point is that my cricket career could end tomorrow. I nearly ended when Bishop hit me. I have every right to try and feather my bed for when I finally quit the sport, but it seems that I will never lose the tag of being South African."

Speaking of tags, Smith's final problem is his so-called difficulty with spin. Even the tribe of hitherto unknown tree players, recently discovered in Sumatra, have probably debated this issue over the years. "Tell me about it," Smith adds, wearily. "Even when I play in local

benefit games I hear a fielder shouting to his captain: 'Put me on, skip, I can bowl leg spinners and Smith's batting'."

There then follows a well-prepared case for the defence. "I've scored 20,000 first-class runs at an average of 46; 4,000 runs at an average of 44, and an average of 41 in one-day internationals. I average 64 against India, the best spinners in the world. Come on, I can't be that bad, can I?"

"When I play Sussex, they always put on Ian Salisbury. I've scored 10 centuries against that lot. When I played Northampton last summer, Lambie immediately put on Anil Kumble. He bowled 70 overs in that innings, and I scored 184, and made a point of reminding Lambie later. The bottom line is that I never think 'Oh shit, they're bringing on a leg spinner. I admit to being more comfortable against pace, look better and play with more command, but the end result is no different."

Now even Johnny Cochrane would have been proud of that defence. All that is left, then, is a successful tour in South Africa. "I'd be disappointed if people didn't think I was one of the best batsmen in England, and I'm very confident of being picked for the team. That's not being arrogant, just honest."

I make the point that he would be the first South African to play for England in his former home. "Yeah, you're right," he answers. "That would be something, wouldn't it?"

Donald wraps it up for S Africa

Zimbabwe 170 and 283
South Africa 346 and 108-3
South Africa win by 7 wickets

Superb fast bowling by Allan Donald and determined batting from Hansie Cronje guided South Africa to a seven-wicket victory over Zimbabwe with a day-and-a-half spare of their one-off Test in Harare.

Donald produced the fifth-best bowling figures in South African Test history, snapping up the last two wickets in the first 17 minutes on the fourth day to help dismiss Zimbabwe for 283 in their second innings. Donald finished with 8 for 71 to complete a match analysis of 11 for 113. Only Hugh Tayfield (twice), Stubby Spooner and "Goofy" Lawrence have produced better figures for South Africa in a Test innings.

Donald said: "I don't think I've ever bowled as well as that, particularly on this sort of flat wicket. I felt very tired and a bit depressed when I came back from England after winning the championship with Warwickshire. I really wasn't well for a week or so, but I got over it and now I'm raring to go again."

Taking 11 wickets in the first Test of the summer has set things up beautifully for the England series. We all know that the five Tests will be very, very tough, but we're also looking forward to them immensely."

Cronje settled a bitter crisis in the pursuit of the 108 runs South Africa needed for victory with an unbeaten 56 after three wickets had fallen for 48 runs. The victory was South Africa's fifth in consecutive Tests, which equals their most successful run.

(Fourth day: Zimbabwe won toss; Zimbabwe - First innings 270 (H H Smith 53; B H Stanger 4-54; A Donald 5-42); South Africa - First innings 346 (A C Hudson 135; B M Macmillan 58; S Stanger 5-101); Zimbabwe - Second innings

(Overnight 272 for 81)
P A Strong & Richardson & Donald 37
S Stanger not out 25
C Hudson 135 53
B M Macmillan 58 58
S Stanger 5-101 5
Total 283 (404 overs)
Fall: 1-23 2-44 3-71 4-102 5-199 6-206 7-232 8-232 9-279
Bowling: Donald 33-12-71-8; Smith 24-7-12-4; Stanger 11-3-22-0; Macmillan 20-7-52-0; Macmillan 15-3-53-1; Cronje 1-0-3-0.

SOUTH AFRICA - Second innings
G Rossouw & Flower & Lamb 13
A C Hudson 135 53
B M Macmillan 58 58
S Stanger 5-101 5
Total 108 (not out) 25
Extras (not out) 25
Total 108 (not out) 25
Fall: 1-2 2-36 3-48

■ Brian Lara struck a one-day career-best 169 out of 333 for 7 but the West Indies were made to fight for a four-run victory in their Champions' Trophy match in Sharjah yesterday. Hashan Tillakaratne made 100 for Sri Lanka, who recovered from 103 for 5 only to be bowled out for 329 with three balls remaining.

CHAMPIONS' TROPHY (Sharjah, UAE): West Indies 333 for 7 (50 overs); Sri Lanka 329 (49.3 overs); Sri Lanka 329 (49.3 overs); Sri Lanka 329 (49.3 overs). West Indies won by four runs.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By nature, goalkeepers are different; but David Harvey would seem unconventional even among his peers. While many Leeds players from the 1970s still haunt their old stomping ground, the man who succeeded Gary Sprake could not have left his past much further behind.

Harvey, now 47, lives on the island of Sanday in the Orkneys, where he is restoring a 150-year-old stone cottage on a 10-acre plot he shares with his wife, June, and five children, plus various cattle, pigs, sheep and poultry, with the sea 200 yards from his front door.

"As a boy I loved the country and I was a bit of a horticulturalist," the Leeds-born former Scottish international said, recalling gloomily how, at 15, he took a job in a shoe factory instead. "Happily, football rescued me and it is because the game was good to me that I can live this way now. You cannot make a living from 10 acres but we are more or less self-sufficient and the great thing is that it is totally stress-free."



David Harvey

Once with Vancouver Whitecaps, Harvey retired at 37, after which he kept a pub at Stamford Bridge, near York, and later was a postman - "The sorting office atmosphere was like a dressing room" - but hankered after the life he enjoyed in his Leeds prime, when he lived on a small holding in the Yorkshire Wolds.

"I saw this place advertised in Exchange and Mart. I fancied Scotland, although I knew nothing of the Orkneys. But I took to it as soon as I saw it and I've never left the islands since we came here 18 months ago."

Jon Culley

Colts kick 49ers into touch

American football
MATT TENCH

The Indianapolis Colts' status as the great tarnishers of NFL reputations grows by the week-end. Having put an end to the unbeaten records of the St Louis Rams and Miami Dolphins, it was the San Francisco 49ers' turn on Sunday to have their noses bloodied.

True, the 49ers came into the game having already suffered a loss, but their standing, with the Dallas Cowboys, as one of the league's two outstanding teams, remained undiminished. A second defeat before the season's half-way point suggests that analysis needs some rethinking.

The 49ers took a 17-15 lead midway through the fourth quarter thanks to Doug Brien's 51-yard field goal, but the Colts responded with a scoring kick of

their own, Cary Blanchford converting from 41 yards with two and a half minutes left. That still gave the 49ers a chance, but Brien missed from 46 yards to leave the Colts 18-17 winners. "Hollywood couldn't have picked a better script for me. This was my last chance at kicking in the NFL," said Blanchford, who was out by the 49ers earlier in the season.

As with Dan Marino last week, it was not just reputations that the Colts bloodied. Steve Young, the 49ers quarterback, sustained a badly bruised back and shoulder, which threatens his participation in Sunday's game in St Louis. Young, who holds the current record for consecutive starts by a quarterback at 55, was knocked down by Ellis Johnson with a minute to go, missed one play, but returned despite the pain. "I felt like I could play and felt like I should play until that last hit," he said.

Marino, injured in the defeat by the Colts, was missing from the Dolphins team that travelled to New Orleans, but his absence hardly excuses a 33-30 defeat to the previously winless Saints. Bernie Kosar, replacing Marino, passed for 368 yards and a trio of touchdowns, and ran for one himself, but it was not enough. The Dolphins are now a game behind the Buffalo Bills in the AFC East, and will need to regroup rapidly if another season of high expectation is not to evaporate prematurely.

The Bills' defeat of the Seattle Seahawks was their fifth in a row, and typically, their 70-year-old head coach, Marv Levy, waited until victory was secured before disclosing he had prostate cancer and will have surgery today. "If it's confined to the prostate, it's totally curable. Surgery is the surest way to know, I'm told," Levy said. "We

been coaching 45 years, and I never missed a practice and never missed a game. It looks as though I'm going to have to."

The defeats of the 49ers and Dolphins strengthens the Dallas Cowboys' claim to be the class of '95. They were comfortable and impressive winners at San Diego, with the incomparable Emmitt Smith notching another two touchdowns.

The Carolina Panthers, newcomers to the league this season, recorded their first victory, 26-15 over the New York Jets, who just play like newcomers. The Jets, without a rushing score all season, were limited to 25 yards on the ground.

NFL home teams first: Buffalo 27 Seattle 21; Kansas City 31 New England 26; New York Giants 14 Philadelphia 17; Green Bay 30 Detroit 21; Tampa Bay 20 Minnesota 17 (4); Indianapolis 18 San Francisco 17; Jacksonville 27 Chicago 20; New Orleans 31 Miami 30; Carolina 26 New York Jets 15; Arizona 24 Washington 23; San Diego 9 Dallas 23. Did not play: Cleveland, Cleveland, Houston, Pittsburgh.

Schumacher quick off mark at Ferrari

Motor racing
DERICK ALLSOP

Michael Schumacher plans to begin his challenge for a third consecutive Formula One title just nine days after the final round of the current championship.

The German, all but confirmed as champion, is scheduled to have his first test drive in a Ferrari at Estoril on 21 November. The Italian team and Benetton Renault are negotiating for his switch to take effect after the Australian Grand Prix rather than the end of the year. In return Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger will move immediately in the opposite direction.

Schumacher, requiring three points from the remaining three races to deny Damon Hill the title, has consistently contended

ed the Williams-Renault driver is favourite next year and that his realistic target is to reclaim the championship in 1997.

Schumacher's team-mate at Benetton, Johnny Herbert, appears close to securing a contract for next year with Tyrrell-Yamaha in place of Japan's Ukyo Katayama, who returns after a one-race absence in Sunday's Pacific Grand Prix.

Herbert has also had discussions with Sauber-Ford, and although another Englishman, Mark Blundell, about to be released by McLaren-Mercedes, seems to have moved ahead of him in the queue, that job may still be given back to the Australian, Karl Wendlinger.

The other present McLaren driver, Mika Hakkinen, misses Sunday's race following an operation to remove his appendix.

Cottee's strike rebounds on Dons

Graduating with honours: David Wetherall, Leeds' defensive linchpin, went from student to championship winner in his first year at Elland Road. Photograph: Allsport

concentrate when I suddenly thought: 'Damn - I answered question seven wrongly'."

Late in the "hangover" season which followed the championship, he began playing regularly in the Premiership.

having been out of Europe for 11 years, this club is hungry for success on the continent again."

Rovers, whose first European campaign has brought them Bayern Munich, Jürgen Klinsmann and all, in the second round at Hibernian's Easter Road. They will be urged to provide one thing by their manager, Jimmy Nicholl: "Make sure we're still in the tie by the time the second leg comes around."

It will be a thought echoing in a few minds tonight

at Post Office

The United States discovered in Featherstone last night that, for an emerging rugby league nation, size is not everything when they lost 64-6 to the Cook Islands.

They brought the flavour and especially the sounds of those islands to Featherstone in the opening match of the Emerging

ers performing the most complicated war dance of either this or the Senior World Cup competition so far.

Featherstone also provided drummers to beat out the islands' distinctive tattoos every time they scored. It was always likely that the drummers would be kept busy, as the Cooks, geographically obscure as they might be, can claim a health crop of genuine rugby league players with experience in New

[illegible]

to deal with a corner.

Ambleton (3-5-2): Heald; McAllister, Thorn (Injured, 21), Perry; Skinner (Goyle, H-U), Earl, Leonardson (Clarke, H-U), Jones, Cunningham; Goodman, Holdsworth.

West Ham United (4-4-2): Milosky; Potts, Martin, Ripper, Dicks; Slater, Bishop, Moncus, Hughes; Coope, Dowie. Substitutes not used: Howland, Hutchison, Seabright (G).

Reference: O Gallagher (Banbury).

6-1: T Hennmen (GB) bt P Sapsford (GB)
6-4 8-4: M Teibnitz (Aust) bt P Wieressa

...ing part in a Japanese football league match after realising they had taken a cold medicine containing several banned stimulants, including ephedrine. They lost 3-1.

•

SPORT

LINFORD CHRISTIE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY
Exclusive extracts begin in Saturday's magazine

Eubank announces retirement as pressure builds up

Boxing
JAMES REED

Chris Eubank yesterday announced his retirement from boxing, a decision that is not a surprise, though it remains to be seen if he will quit for good.

Eubank, 29, has fought 47 times and suffered his first defeat in March of this year when he lost his World Boxing Organisation

super middleweight title to Steve Collins and last month he lost for the second time when Collins once again beat him. On both occasions Eubank was devastated by the defeat.

"There is life outside the ring and I feel the pressure is now off me. I've been boxing since I was 16 and it's a hard life. I won't be coming back," Eubank promised yesterday. He denied that the death of the

Scottish hantamweight, James Murray, influenced his decision. Eubank will now concentrate on a sports and fashion business he has set up with an associate, Rory McCarthy, called "Show Offs". It is an appropriate name for the Brighton boxer who has spoken of quitting the ring since he first won the WBO middleweight title from Nigel Benn in November, 1990.

Since his defeat and what

could be his final fight last month against Collins, Eubank has eked out an ascetic existence in Hove. Even at the opening of his new wine bar, Hyde's, the enigmatic boxer was amazingly quiet and left before the opening night party was in full swing.

During the last few weeks there has been speculation about his intentions. His trainer Ronnie Davies had suggested that Eubank would move up

to light-heavyweight. It is still an option. "We've had some marvellous times and I'm obviously sad but if he wants to retire and stay retired I will back his decision all the way," said Davies, who often despaired at his fighter's antics.

Eubank's first five fights were in Atlantic City but in 1988 he returned to England and shortly after joined Barry Hearn. They remained together until

August of this year when Eubank left, and his last fight against Collins was for Frank Warren. "It was always going to be the end of an era, it had to come and Eubank's always made it quite clear that he's a businessman who boxes," said Hearn.

"Eubank's called boxing a mug's game for years and perhaps from a timing point of view with the tragedy of James Murray it is an understandable de-

cision," added Hearn, who claimed Eubank is also the highest paid British fighter at all time. Before Eubank met Collins, there was speculation about there being a multi-million pound fight against his former rival, Nigel Benn, and the current sensation of American boxing, Roy Jones, but since losing to Collins both those lucrative avenues dried up.

"Eubank is no good to me because he has now lost twice,"

said Jones recently. Benn has never been keen to meet Eubank for a third time, even though he lost the first encounter and drew their second fight when they met in front of 42,000 people at Old Trafford in October, 1993.

"It is a dirty business and boxers should be in control of their own destiny," said Eubank at last year's inaugural Professional Boxers Association dinner.

Desolate Graf talks of ordeal

Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS
reports from Brighton

Steffi Graf is here, seeking refuge from what she describes as "the unhappiest time of my life" the only way she knows how: by playing tennis. Whether the Wimbledon champion returns to Britain in the future depends on the state of a chronic back injury and her ability to deal with the strain of a German tax investigation into her earnings, which has led to the imprisonment of her father.

During a break from preparations to compete in the Brighton International women's tournament tomorrow, the 26-year-old Graf explained what it has been like for her to be at the centre of controversy. "You just can't get away from it," she said. "You sit in the car with the radio on. There's news every five minutes, and you are always in it. You turn on the TV, and it's just there constantly. There's a chat show on, and they're discussing whether you should be sent to jail or not. There's no way of escaping it."

There is one way, but Graf has not been fit enough to compete on the WTA Tour since defeating Monica Seles in the final of the United States Open almost six weeks ago. "Being here is like a little holiday for me right now," she said. "I'm happy to get away. Tennis right now gives me the break of not having constantly to talk to lawyers. Tennis is what I'm living for right now, nothing else."

Asked if she had considered leaving the sport in order to take herself out of the public eye, she said: "How am I supposed to drop out of the public eye? I didn't give any statements. I didn't do anything which would put me in the public eye more than any other time in my life."

One consequence of the tax investigation was the loss yesterday of Graf's £650,000 Opel sponsorship. The German car company said: "We do not question her integrity. It's problems with her management."

Graf arrived in England on Sunday evening, ending a week of speculation that injury would cause her to miss the Brighton event for the third year consecutively. Her first appointment yesterday at Blatchington Mill School, Hove, answering questions about her tennis life from pupils, some of whom will be ball-girls at the tournament.

"It's been so crazy at home," she said. "I heard from other people that apparently I'd cancelled the tournament, but it was someone just starting to spread rumours around. I've not had the greatest preparation, but I never felt I wasn't going to play here."

"I didn't touch a racket for two and a half weeks after the US Open. When I did start back, I did a lot of conditioning. For the first time in a long time I was able to lift a lot of weights. I have a lot more strength all over and feel fitter than I have done for a long time. Before that I couldn't even do the gym exercises for a long time



Troubled daughter: Steffi Graf answers questions at a Brighton school yesterday Photograph: Ross Kinnauld/Allsport

because my back was hurting. The last few days I've been able to run like I haven't been able to run for years."

It would appear that periods of rest after the more demanding tournaments will become the norm for however long Graf decides to continue her career. "Since Houston, in April, when I took some time off, I really haven't had much time off.

My life has been so busy. I really couldn't concentrate the way I wanted to do."

Had she experienced as much hassle around her home in Germany as she did outside her New York apartment during the US Open? "It hasn't been too bad for me - even if they tried to catch up on me they didn't stand a chance."

The organisers of the

Brighton tournament are enormously relieved that Graf is in town. It is the 18th and last occasion the event will take place, having been squeezed out of the calendar by lack of sponsorship and dwindling interest. Graf has won the title six times, starting in 1986.

Britain's only winner was Sue Barker, in 1981. Jo Durie was the runner-up to Chris Evert in

1983 after defeating Pam Shriver in the semi-finals. The only home players in the draw this week are Clare Wood, from Sussex, who has been given a wild card, and Sam Smith, from Essex, who fought through the qualifying tournament, a commendable effort after being out of the game for three years while studying for a degree in history.

King of grand entrances exits unlamented

Ken Jones assesses the boxing career of a flamboyant but flawed exhibitionist

In the process of amassing a considerable fortune from boxing Chris Eubank and his promoter, Barry Hearn, rejected totally the idea of going in with Mike McCallum, who then held a version of the middleweight championship. "What would McCallum bring?" Hearn snorted. The answer was danger.

While Eubank showed plenty of courage in hard contests against Nigel Benn and the ill-fated Michael Watson, he was never likely to run unnecessary risks with titles put out by the World Boxing Organisation. Eubank, who announced his retirement from the ring yesterday, had but one self-confessed aim: to manipulate the sport he declared to be beneath his contempt.

So many past boxing champions have ended their days penniless that nobody, not even the fellow professionals who resented his attitude, could deny Eubank the riches from a career shaped around ludicrous posturing, extravagant entrances and the many mismatches on a record that shows just two defeats.

With the eager co-operation of ITV, who projected the first phase of his championship career, Eubank gained a reputation out of all proportion to his ability. "Like to think I set standards for others," he said yesterday.

If Eubank was referring to the hypebole that served to polarise public opinion to the point where millions of viewers (his fights achieved record figures) switched on simply to see him defeated, there isn't an argument. Stunt followed stunt. He arrived by crane, once astride a motor cycle. Dress and stylised speech established him as an eccentric. Unmitigated gall never failed him.

Eubank the fighter is a different matter. Curiously for one so determined to grow rich from the sport, he took liberties in preparation that often left him well overweight only a few days

before championship contests, some of which were not worthy of the name. A former title-holder said of Eubank, before his recent failure to regain the WBO super-middleweight title from Steve Collins, "I did more work in a day than he does in a week."

Never far from controversy, Eubank gained a number of decisions from WBO officials that raised eyebrows at ringside. It is impossible to know how good a fighter Eubank might have become, because he never committed himself fully, the posturing unquestionably a device to conceal serious limitations in stamina.

Eubank was seen at his best when taking the WBO middleweight title from Benn, stopping him after nine rounds, and in the two contests against Watson. Watson was ahead in the second when Eubank climbed from the floor to score a knock-out that had tragic consequences.

There is no way of knowing these things but it is hard to imagine that Eubank would have attained even domestic championship status had his career coincided with those of Alan Minter, who held the undisputed world middleweight championship, or Kevin Finnegan and Tony Stinson, who both went in with Marvin Hagler.

Interestingly, however, Eubank will probably be remembered for having a higher profile than any of them. A man for the time, he rode the television bandwagon for all he was worth and earned more than any British fighter outside the heavyweight division.

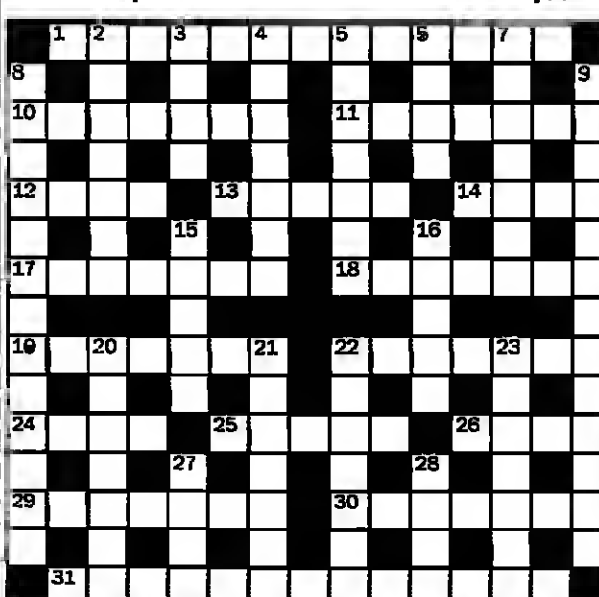
Despite the attention he attracted, Eubank could not be considered a great champion, and the arrogant worst of him in the ring, especially the taunting of humbled opponents, has been taken up by the new star, Naseem Hamed. If that was setting standards, Eubank's retirement is no cause for regret.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No 2807, Tuesday 17 October

By Aclred

Monday's Solution



DISPATCH MANNER
E T I C E I
MOREOVER MATURE
U I C W N R S
REFLECTS STROLL
E T H C H T I
S I O R E I G C
TONIC WATER
A N T G O G R
GLOBAL COMPLETE
G O P A N
EIGHT CHANCE
R M A N S N A
SIENNA EDGEHILL

In Saturday's prize puzzle 21 across should have read "Jumper originally available in fine lambwood, extremely attractive (4)". Our apologies.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Illuminating bit of soccer? (8,5)
 - 10 Copious untruths written about artist (7)
 - 11 Biographer notes personal hygiene problem on dashing person (7)
 - 12 Name a place for building in report (4)
 - 13 Right time to get into handyman's work to show effect thereof? (5)
 - 14 Compete to protect new plant (4)
 - 17 A deterioration is concerning Latin 6 dn (7)
 - 18 Subsequently returning to hold Channel Islands performance (7)
 - 19 Range of company found by MP on a ship (7)
 - 22 Turn to stream to find a large animal (7)

- 24 Making shoe go round this? (4)
 - 25 Line-up essential for snooker player we hear (5)
 - 26 Sign of people getting old prematurely (4)
 - 29 What you have to pay to kennel dog just now? (7)
 - 30 Try to secure deal to produce profit from drinks (7)
 - 31 Overtime payment abolished? (3,3,7)
- DOWN**
- 2 Going round and round piece in exam (7)
 - 3 Allowance made for packing weight of fodder plant (4)
 - 4 Descriptive of unbreakable record which could make team ill (3-4)
 - 5 Make high-ball and rest lazily of course? (7)
 - 6 Recess for leaders in all

- 7 party sessions evidently (4)
- 8 Get along with English team splitting the expense (2-5)
- 8 Current charge if excessive could produce it? (8,5)
- 9 A positive outcome of boring lesson? (5,13)
- 15 Some mountainous peaks, say (5)
- 16 Mark's going to Spain in panic (5)
- 20 One abandoned in failure of justice? It's a nasty blow (7)
- 21 Deliberately destroy coal carrier (7)
- 22 Complain good lumber's being wasted (7)
- 23 Liberal university doctor has a game? It's a pain? (7)
- 27 Great master has say essentially (4)
- 28 Horrid creatures showing reverse of academician's skills (4)

Illingworth shoulders England's burden

Cricket

Just in case anyone was in the slightest doubt, Ray Illingworth has spelled out where the power will lie on England's tour of South Africa this winter. With him.

The England tour party leaves tomorrow and, as chairman of selectors and tour manager, Illingworth has made it clear that he will use his unprecedented powers throughout a daunting programme that starts with a five-Test series, continues with seven one-day internationals against South Africa and winds up with a World Cup campaign in India and Pakistan.

"I can't play for the players but I'm sure I'm going to be judged on what happens this winter," Illingworth said. "I've been involved in the game a long time and I back my knowledge. Maybe I've given way on

selection matters once or twice when I shouldn't have done. But I have overall say this winter and there won't be a tour selection committee, as has been the case in the past."

Illingworth's working relationship with captain Mike Atherton has not always been ideal during its 18 months of

ROBIN SMITH
Squaring up to the test of his life
Page 26

operation, but the 63-year-old Yorkshireman suggested there would be no change in his attitude. "I'll be picking the teams and chatting to Atherton from time to time," he said.

But, Illingworth added, there was mutual respect between him and his captain. "I'm prepared to take Mike's thoughts

on board. He's good. He makes a lot of sensible comments. We'll work together. I'll write down the team I think we should play. Mike will put down what he thinks and there'll probably be an odd position we'll argue over."

While Illingworth continues to insist this will be his only winter in charge, he added: "Although my contract ends after the World Cup, I would like to do another summer if things go all right and people are happy with me."

"I wasn't unhappy with our 2-2 draw against West Indies but I will be very disappointed if we don't win the Test series in South Africa. The players have backed me and the captain over the last six months by putting in some hard work. If they keep putting in 100 per cent they've got nothing to fear from me."

Face to face with Robin Smith, page 26

Teesside welcome for Juninho

Football

After a 14-hour three-legged trip from São Paulo, Juninho eventually landed at Teesside airport yesterday to be greeted by supporters decked out in Brazilian shirts and waving banners written in his native Portuguese. It was a welcome that not even this 22-year-old could have expected.

Obviously enjoying the excitement his signing has generated, the beaming Juninho asked: "What's all the fuss about, has someone stolen the Crown Jewels?"

Juninho touched down in

Teesside at 11am yesterday, having flown by private jet from Heathrow accompanied by his father. In a message to the Middlesbrough fans, he said: "I can't wait to start playing. I'll do my best and hopefully help the team to win the Premiership."

The Brazilian international then climbed into a club Jaguar and was driven to Middlesbrough to undergo a medical. The club are hoping Juninho's work permit comes through next week, allowing to make his debut against his manager Bryan Robson's old club, Manchester United, at Old Trafford on Saturday week.

Supporters eager to watch

Juninho continued to queue in their hundreds yesterday trying to snap up the last of the 21,500 season tickets for the stadium which has a 30,000 capacity.

Manchester City have taken the 24-year-old Celtic defender, Mark McNally, on trial. Steve Wicks has been sacked at Lincoln City - after only 41 days in charge - to make way for John Beck to take over as the manager of the Third Division club.

David Kohler, the Luton chairman and managing director, has put the First Division club up for sale. The asking price is believed to be £3m.

Wetherall's progress, page 27

COULD YOU GET TEN SOLDIERS ACROSS AFRICA, NOT JUST TEN ACROSS?

Could you solve the real life problems that can face Army Officers every day?

Could you set up communications for the British in Africa or rebuild a hospital in Iraq? If you think that you could, then try to solve answers in our little box.

To apply as an Officer you should be aged 18-24, ideally with A-levels or a degree. For more details post this 'clipped to Army Officer Entry, Freeport 4336, Dept. 2422. Britain BS1 3TX or phone 0295 300 111 quoting ref 2422. The Army is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

ARMY OFFICER
BE THE BEST

من الاجل